

Merit Award

The EDGE Group

Category: Landscape Planning & Analysis

Client: Ohio National Road Association

Historic Preservation: Judith B. Williams

Architecture & Planning: Lincoln Street Studio

Engineering: Burgess & Niple

Project Co-Administrators: Ohio National Road Assoc. & Ohio Preservation Office

Project Funding: Ohio Department of Transportation Scenic Byways Program

The Turner Foundation

Clark County-Springfield Transportation Coordination Committee

Purpose of the Project

The Ohio Historic National Road Design Handbook is intended to provide guidance for the protection, enhancement and promotion of the Historic National Road Scenic Byway in Ohio. It is written as an aide for regional planners, local government decision-makers, community activists, property owners and developers, among others, who have an interest in the National Road/U.S. 40 through the state.

The Historic National Road Scenic Byway extends east and west across the state from the Ohio River at Bridgeport to the Indiana state line. At 227 miles, Ohio's portion of the road is the longest of the six National Road states. The road's trek through the state encompasses multiple jurisdictions, 10 counties, 13 cities, 16 villages, and 38 townships.

Role of the Landscape Architect

Establishing guidelines for 227 miles of roadway was a great challenge that required a diverse team, including a landscape architect, historic preservationist and architect. The team collaborated on all aspects of the project approach, including a well organized approach to public input. Input was gathered through electronic surveys, a project website (to communicate progress, post drafts and answer questions), and several public workshops across the state. A detailed Research and Field Work Plan was utilized by each consultant as they documented and evaluated the wide variety of opportunities, challenges and threats along each mile of the roadway.

In addition to the project approach, the landscape architect was specifically responsible for the Site Development and Roadway Corridor Guidelines of the Handbook. This included field analysis of all 227 miles of the road across the state of Ohio and Public Workshops at locations across the state to gain insight into design and development issues. The recognition of identifiable contexts along the road was critical to the organization of the guidelines. Typical site development guidelines for all contexts include building placement, in-fill and new construction, off-street parking, vehicular access, landscaping, screening, site lighting, fences and walls, and signage. Roadway corridor guidelines typically include recommendations for the street cross-section, pavements, street trees, street lighting, and gateway treatments. In addition, the landscape architect also provided guidelines for the treatment of Interpretive Opportunities along the road.

Enhancing all of these guidelines, are a variety of photo examples, illustrations, special "side bar" examples or resources, and helpful "case histories" that direct reader's to specific sources where many of the concepts or guidelines have been implemented. The landscape architectural firm was also responsible for the graphic layout of the entire document. With the large amount of information provided, the graphic layout was carefully considered to maximize readability and user-friendliness.

Project Significance

This Handbook represents one of the most extensive sets of guidelines ever assembled for a scenic byway and is by far the most comprehensive handbook that has been prepared for any of the National Road states. The goal of the handbook was not simply to establish guidelines, but rather to **educate** (about the history of the road and the importance of its preservation), **assist** (by directing readers to helpful resources) and **inspire** (with compelling and creative solutions). The format is critical to achieving these goals. In addition to the photos, illustrations, side bars, and case histories, an entire section is dedicated to "Tools and Resources for Implementation" in order to quickly provide guidance for some of the most challenging implementation or preservation challenges.

This document provides all potential users with the information and resources necessary to preserve, protect, and enhance their segment of the National Road in Ohio.

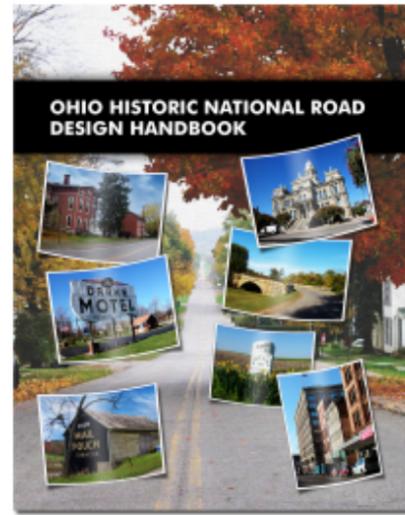


Figure A: Spread from the Defining Historic Character section of the Handbook, illustrating Character Defining Features from the Heyday of the National Road (1825-1850) including Mile Markers, S-Bridges and Pike Towns.

Figure B: Spread from the Defining Historic Character section of the Handbook. The checklist is provided as an aid to defining community character, and is intended to provide a useful format for volunteers to assess the existing planning area in an understandable way.

Figure C: Spread from the Site Development and Roadway Corridor Guidelines section of the Handbook. The toolbox on the left page provides a synopsis of available resources for more information; more detailed information about each is provided in the "Tools and Resources for the Road" section located at the back of the Handbook. The right page illustrates a specific rural setting feature of the road — Pike towns. Graphic representations of typical Pike towns are provided as an easy tool for the user to determine their specific setting.

Figure D: Spread from the Site Development and Roadway Corridor Guidelines section of the Handbook illustrating Roadway Corridor Guidelines for Pike towns. Guidelines regarding street tree plantings, safe pedestrian crossings and gateway signage are illustrated with photographic examples taken along the National Road. Case histories are used throughout the handbook to illustrate the best practices along the road. In this example, the case history provides information about one of the best examples of a linear Pike town along the National Road — Morristown, Ohio. Photographic examples of the town are highlighted, along with a brief history and a link to the town's website for more information.

Figure E: Spread from the Site Development and Roadway Corridor Guidelines section of the Handbook, illustrating Interpretive Opportunities along the road. This section indicates that the stories and attractions of the road should be shared with travelers through clear and consistent signage and safe access. Suggestions include Historic National Road signage consistency and placement, correct preservation and restoration of original mile markers, and standards for interpretive signage. A sidebar is included to inform the user of the Ohio Historical Marker Program including a phone number and web address for more information, as well as a Case History on the Fox Creek S-Bridge enhancement in New Concord, Ohio, representing one of the best enhancements to an interpretive element found along the road.

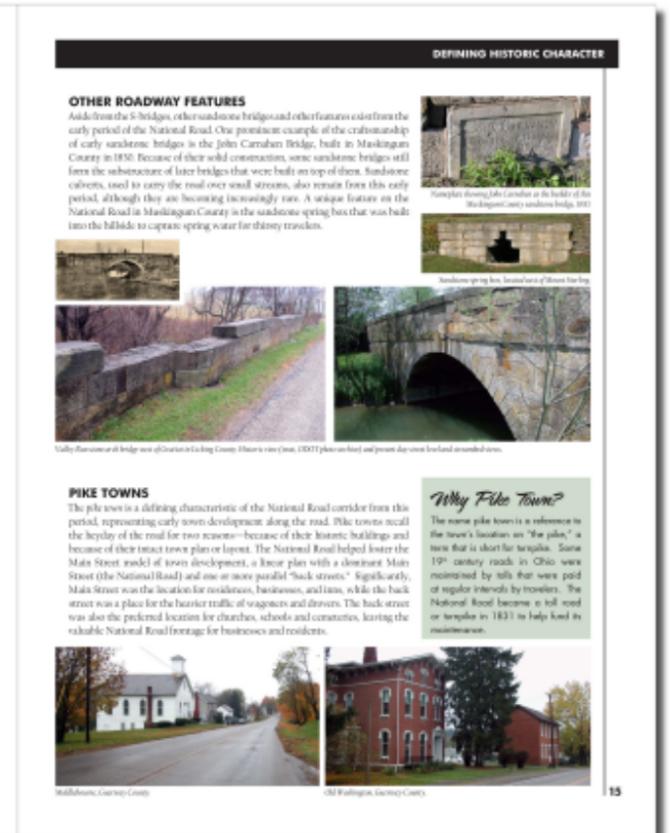
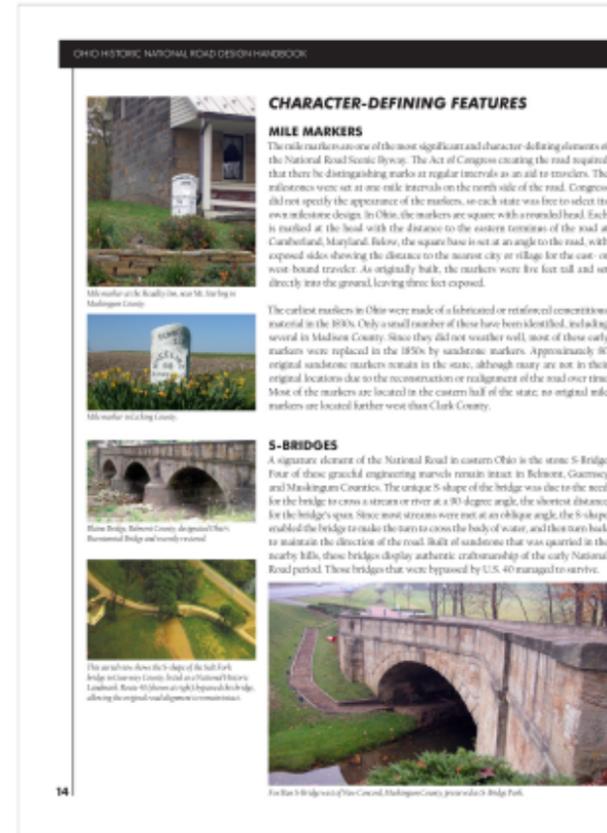


Figure A

Figure B

Figure D

Figure E