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Thank you for attending this historic event.

For information about the Ohio National Road Association, including our upcoming interpretive sign unveilings, please visit our website at [www.ohionationalroad.org](http://www.ohionationalroad.org) or contact Louis Agresta (937) 521-2134.

Become a member and *Join the Journey!*



## *Unveiling of the Ohio National Road Red Brick Tavern Interpretive Sign*



1700 Cumberland Street (U. S. Rt. 40)  
In Lafayette, Ohio

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 3:00 pm



# A Brief History of The Red Brick Tavern



The Red Brick Tavern has long been a stopping place on the National Road. It was built as an investment of Stanley Watson from Connecticut, on land owned by his father-in-law, William Minter, a Revolutionary officer to whom had been granted 6,000 acres for military services. In 1834, recognizing the strategic value of this location between two important towns—Springfield and Columbus—Minter laid out a town on his tract. He left the naming of it to his daughter, and she, having just read a biography of Lafayette, who was much in the public mind because of his recent visit to America, named it after the French General. The Red Brick Tavern was built in 1836-1837 and was in operation when the National Road was completed through Madison County. Horses were housed in a barn (now demolished) at the rear of the property which served as a relay station for mail delivery.

The inn had but one landlord, John McMullen, who managed it from 1837 to 1859. During those years, the tavern hosted visits of five U.S. Presidents: John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, and Zachary Taylor. After 1859, however, tavern keeping on the stagecoach roads became unprofitable due to the advent of railroads, and the Red Brick Tavern, like many others, closed for lack of patronage. Members of the Minter and extended family resided here until 1924 when, with the coming of the automobile, it opened again to the public. Soon afterward, a sixth President, Warren G. Harding, arrived at its door by horseless carriage. Business thrived after 1926 when the National Road became U.S. 40 as part of a coast-to-coast highway.

The Red Brick Tavern's business declined again in the 1960's when I-70 took much of the through traffic away from U.S. 40. It was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, but by 2005 the building was closed and had an uncertain future. In March 2007, current owners, Madonna Christy and Cris Cummins took a leap of faith and saved the Red Brick Tavern from the auction block. Because of them, this famous house of hospitality remains a destination on the Historic National Road in Ohio.

## Unveiling of the Ohio National Road Red Brick Tavern Interpretive Sign

Wednesday, September 15, 2010—3:00 pm

**Welcome by Sean Hughes**

*Executive Director, Madison Co. Chamber of Commerce*

**Flag Raising & Pledge of Allegiance**

**Blessing by Carolyn Peacock**

*Pastor, Lafayette and Plumwood United Methodist Church*

**Speakers:**

**Jim Sabin**

*Madison County Sheriff*

**Madison Co. Bicentennial Committee Co-chairs**

**David Dhume**

*Madison County Commissioner*

**Devin Hamilton**

*Madison Press Publisher*

**Red Brick Tavern**

*Recognition of Employees*

**Cyndie Gerken**

*President, Ohio National Road Association*

**Unveiling of Ohio National Road Interpretive Sign**

**Refreshments in the President's Room**

**A special thanks to the following:**

Interpretive sign sponsors—William and Jan Hill of Centereach, NY

Cris Cummins and Madonna Christy—Red Brick Tavern Owners

Ohio National Road Association Board, Members & Staff

Music by members of The Dixieland Band

Elected officials in attendance

Lafayette friends and neighbors for their support