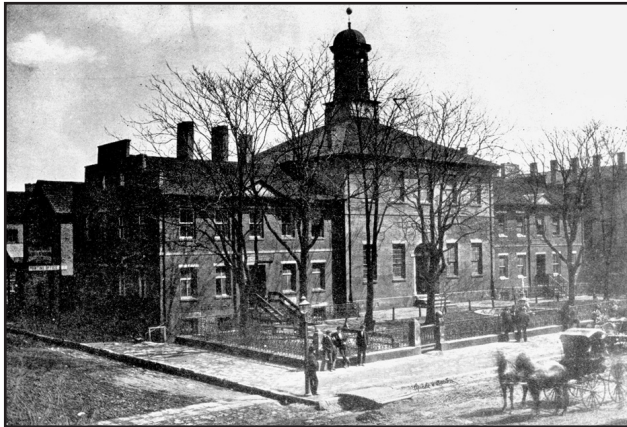


Zanesville

The Second Capital of Ohio

Columbus is the capital of Ohio. But did you know that Ohio had two other capitals before Columbus was permanently chosen as the location? The first capital of



Ohio's capitol building in Zanesville.

Courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society

Ohio was Chillicothe. It was the capital city from 1803 to 1809. In 1809 the capital was moved to Zanesville. The capital was moved back to Chillicothe in 1812, and in 1816 Columbus became the permanent state capital of Ohio.

Zanesville was founded in 1797, six years before Ohio became a state. The founding of Zanesville merged the communities of Zane's Town and Westbourne. At the same time, across the river, rival town Putnam was

established. In the early to mid-1800s, Zanesville was an important place. For several years, it was Ohio's third largest city.

In 1809, both Zanesville and Putnam were competing to be Ohio's second capital city. To increase their chances of being chosen, Zanesville built a courthouse and Putnam built the Stone Academy. Both towns were hopeful that they would be chosen. Zanesville came out on top and was named the capital city in October 1809. It remained as the capital from 1810 to 1812.

The first act that Ohio legislators agreed upon in Zanesville was to decide that a new, permanent, centrally located capital city must be found. In selecting the site, officials agreed that the city should be "not more than 40 miles from what may be deemed the common center of the state." This new rule made it impossible for either Chillicothe or Zanesville to remain as Ohio's permanent capital.

In 1812, with the threat of war near, the capital was moved back to Chillicothe. This was done to keep the capital city safe in case of an attack by British soldiers or Native American warriors.

