OLDEST
CINCINNATI

BY RICK PENDER
This didn't last ...

- Vine Street, just south of Fifth, roughly the location of today's Carew Tower entrance

- But many of our oldest things can still be found!

Among the most famous images of Old Cincinnati, this photo captures the denizens and hangouts of the “Nasty Corner” on Vine Street just south of Fifth Street in the 1880s. The Carew Tower rises from this corner today.
THE VERY OLDEST

Mastodons
Big Bone Lick State Park
Union, KY
14,000 B.C.
OLDEST ROADS

BUFFALO ROADS … FROM 10,000 B.C.
TODAY’S US 127/US 42/US 25
KY 17
CROSSED AT THE LIMESTONE FORD
AT LICKING & OHIO RIVERS
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

As long ago as 12,000 years since 1st Century B.C.
Adena • Hopewell
Fort Ancient Peoples

Serpent Mound
Adena Historical Site
321 B.C.
Peebles, Ohio
OLDEST NEIGHBORHOOD

Columbia-Tusculum (26 people landed here on Nov. 18, 1788)
OLDEST CEMETERY

PIONEER MEMORIAL CEMETERY NEAR COLUMBIA-TUSCULUM
FIRST BURIAL IN 1790 (SOLDIER KILLED IN A TAVERN BRAWL!)
OLDEST RIVER CROSSINGS

AUGUSTA FERRY (1798), THE REGION’S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY OPERATING FERRY SERVICE

ANDERSON FERRY (1817)
OLDEST BRIDGE

John A. Roebling
Suspension Bridge (1866)
PEOPLE WHO STARTED THINGS

DANIEL DRAKE (1785-1852)

PIONEERING PHYSICIAN
PROLIFIC WRITER
FIRST RELIGIOUS CONGREGATION

• Episcopalian Parish of Christ Church (1817) now on Fourth Street

• First met in Drake's home on Third Street; present were Gen. Arthur St. Clair, Gen. William Henry Harrison; and James Taylor, founder of Newport
Western Museum (1818), the forerunner of today's Museum of Natural History, located in the renovated Union Terminal.

Drake hired John James Audubon as an early employee.
OLDEST UNIVERSITY

- Cincinnati College (1819-1825, restarted in 1835)
- Medical College of Ohio (1819)
- Cincinnati Law School (1833)
- University of Cincinnati (1858)

Consolidated these colleges into a university in Clifton — today it uses 1819 as its founding date.
OLDEST CANAL

• MIAMI AND ERIE CANAL (1825)
  • Drake designed first leg, connecting Cincinnati to Dayton
  • Looking south toward City Hall. Today this is where Central Parkway curves to the east. The canal followed the path of Eggleston Avenue to the River.
PEOPLE WHO STARTED THINGS

NICHOLAS LONGWORTH (1783-1863)

LAND SPECULATOR, BANKER

WINE MAKER OF "SPARKLING CATAWBA WINE"

"THE FATHER OF AMERICAN GRAPE CULTURE"
OLDEST BUILDING

Betts House (416 Clark Street, 1804)
“Betts-Longworth Historic District”
William & Phoebe Betts's Brickyard was nearby
Four Generations of Betts lived here
Oldest Downtown Home

Belmont: Built in 1820 by Martin Baum
Owned by Longworth, 1829-1869
David Sinton, Anna (Sinton) Taft, Charles Phelps Taft (1869-1927)
Taft Museum of Art (1927-)
316 Pike Street • Lytle Park
OLDEST UTILITY • HISTORIC PARK

WATERWORKS (1817-1820)
Albert Stein designed the 1st system (later New York, Nashville and New Orleans)

CINCINNATI WATER WORKS (1839)

EDEN PARK (1866) • High elevation was perfect for reservoir, towers and pumping stations
OLDEST TELESCOPE & OBSERVATORY

Merz & Mahler Telescope (1845)  Observatory (1843, 1873)
LITERARY CLUB

THE LITERARY CLUB (1849)
OPERATED IN THIS 1820 HOME
ADJACENT TO FYE PARK
SINCE 1930

MEMBERS SHARE PAPERS ABOUT
LITERARY AND HISTORIC TOPICS
PEOPLE WHO STARTED THINGS

Maria Longworth Nichols Storer
1849-1932
Granddaughter of Nicholas Longworth
Artist & Arts Patron
First American Female Business Owner
OLDEST MUSIC SCHOOL & ARTS INSTITUTION

College of Music (1867)  May Festival (1873)
OLDEST POTTERY

ROOKWOOD POTTERY (1880-1929)

FOUNDED BY MARIA LONGWORTH

MT. ADAMS STUDIO (1892)

AMERICA'S FIFTH-OLDEST ORCHESTRA

CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (1895)
PEOPLE WHO STARTED THINGS

SAMUEL HANNAFORD
1835-1911
BORN IN DEVONSHIRE, ENGLAND
PROLIFIC REGIONAL ARCHITECT
HANNAFORD DESIGNS

- Observatory (Mt. Lookout, 1873)

- Palace Hotel (1882)
  - Today's Cincinnatian Hotel
CULTURAL ICON
MUSIC HALL
(1878)

• Built for the May Festival – inspired by a torrential storm at Sängerfest Hall
• Springer Auditorium (1878), "matching grant" by Reuben Springer
• Exhibition Halls (1880)
• Victorian High Gothic Style
• Tours by the Friends of Music Hall
ELSIONORE
ARCH AND
WATERWORKS

GILBERT AVENUE, 1883
CINCINNATI WATER WORKS VALVE
INSPIRED BY SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET
OLDEST CITY HALL

CINCINNATI CITY HALL (Plum Street, 1893)

HANNAFORD’S GREATEST DESIGN:
RICHARDSONIAN ROMANESQUE
MAROON SANDSTONE BANDING &
MASSIVE ARCHES AND GABLES
CLOCK TOWER IS 293 FEET TALL
STAINED GLASS WINDOWS &
STAIRWELL SKYLIGHT
INTERMISSION
OLDEST
CHURCH

Old St. Mary's (Over-the-Rhine, 1841)
with the first bell by Verdin Bell,
housed in the city's oldest clock
tower

Built from bricks that women
parishioners baked in their ovens

Masses continue to be conducted in
Latin, English and German

Beautifully renovated in 1996
OLDEST BREWERIES

JACKSON BREWERY (1829)

CHRISTIAN MOERLEIN BREWERY (1853)
OLDEST GERMAN RESTAURANT

MECKLENBURG GARDENS
(CORRYVILLE)

Originally Mt. Auburn Garden Restaurant (1870)

George Mecklenburg became the owner (1886)
OLDEST BAR

Arnold's Bar & Grill (1861)
210 East 8th St
Built in 1830s
Whorehouse, Barbershop, Feed Store
Courtyard used as a Stable
Bathtub on the 2nd floor
OLDEST
ITALIAN RESTAURANTS

Scotti's (1912)

Pompilio's (1933)
OLDEST SYNAGOGUES

- Sherith Israel Temple (1861-1882)
- Isaac M. Wise Temple (Plum Street) (1866)
OLDEST JEWISH INSTITUTION

ISAAC M. WISE
(1819-1920)
Founder of Reform Judaism
Launched the American Israelite
"The foremost rabbi in America" (1920)

- HEBREW UNION COLLEGE (1875)
- Oldest Rabbinical school in the Western Hemisphere
OLDEST DOWNTOWN TOWERS

4TH & VINE TOWER (1913)
31 STORIES, TALLEST OUTSIDE NEW YORK CITY
BUILT AS HQ FOR UNION CENTRAL
LATER PNC TOWER
NOW BECOMING APARTMENTS

INGALLS BUILDING (1910)
14 STORIES OF REINFORCED CONCRETE
NOW BECOMING A MARRIOTT COURTYARD
OLDEST DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES

BROMWELL'S (1819)
Flour sifters, Popcorn Poppers and Cups for Civil War Soldiers

THIRD NATIONAL BANK merged with FIFTH NATIONAL BANK (1909) and became FIFTH THIRD BANK

BEGAN AS BANK OF THE OHIO VALLEY (1858)
PROCTER & GAMBLE

William Cooper Procter (1801-1884)
James Norris Gamble (1803-1891)

Procter was a "Candle Molder";
Gamble was a "Soap Boiler"

Married the Norris sisters (1837) – Their
Father-in-Law encouraged the
business partnership

1857: 80 employees and $1 million in sales

1879: Gamble’s son, a chemist, developed
floating soap, marketed nationally in
1882
OLDEST ART DECO BUILDINGS

- CAREW TOWER (1930)
  - Netherland Hotel
  - "City within a City" concept before Rockefeller Center in New York

- DIXIE TERMINAL (1921)
  on Fourth Street
MORE DECO

CINCINNATI UNION TERMINAL
(1933)

TODAY’S CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER
RECENTLY RENOVATED
STILL BREATHTAKING
OLDEST AMUSEMENT PARK

"Parker's Grove" (1867)

Became Coney Island (1887)

"Old Coney" Today

Sunlite Pool (1925) – World's Largest Recycling Pool
America's Oldest Professional Baseball Team

Cincinnati Red Stockings (1869) had a 130-game winning streak in their first season

"Redlegs" (1954-1959) Now simply

The Reds
SOME OF THE NEWER OLDESTS

20TH CENTURY ADDITIONS
OLDEST FIREWORKS COMPANY

• Rozzi’s Famous Fireworks (1930, in Loveland, Ohio)
• Launched by Paolo Rozzi in 1895 in Pietramelara Italy
• Paolo’s son Arthur brought the company to Cincinnati
• Still family managed by the fifth generation
OLDEST (AND ONLY) DRIVE-IN MOVIES

Starlite Drive-in
(Amelia, 1947)

Holiday Auto Theatre
(Hamilton, 1948)
OLDEST PROFESSIONAL THEATER

- Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park (1960)
- A converted park shelter house from 1870
- Winner of two Tony Awards
  > 2004, Regional Theater
  > 2007, Best Revival of a Musical
OLDEST (AND FASTEST) ROLLER COASTER

THE BEAST (1972)

BEGAN THE YEAR KINGS ISLAND OPENED
MORE THAN 50 MILLION RIDERS IN 50 YEARS