SOUTH BASS ISLAND

TOUR 3
In the Shadow of Perry's Monument
(1 mile)

1. Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial
2. The Hunker Villa
3. Inselruhe
4. The Acorn Club
5. The Ruh House
6. The Henry Burggraf Farm
7. The Matthias Burggraf Farm
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Separated from the village by the narrow strip of land that supports Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial, East Point is home for several old island families. Predominantly agricultural, the area has been dotted with vineyards since it was settled by the German families of Ruh, Burggraf, and Mueller in the mid-1880s; many of these early vintners’ farmhouses can still be seen along State Route 357. The entry to East Point along Bayview Avenue passes by Perry’s large granite monument and is marked by two of the most elaborate “cottages” found on the Lake Erie islands.

1. Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial. This towering granite column rises 352 feet above Lake Erie and commemorates the decisive naval victory of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry over the British at the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. The memorial was dedicated at the centennial celebration of the battle on 10 September 1913 and was originally known as the Perry Victory Monument. The current name was adopted in 1972 to recognize the fact that the structure also symbolizes the continuing peace between the United States and Canada. The bodies of the six American and British naval officers who died during the battle were moved from their original graves in Island Park to the base of this monument during its construction in 1913. The memorial column is Roman Doric in design and is one of the tallest such towers in the world. An open promenade at the top can be reached by elevator and offers a spectacular view of Put-in-Bay harbor, the Ohio mainland, Michigan, Canada, and various Erie islands. The column is crowned by a bronze tripod measuring approximately twenty feet by seventeen feet. It was designed by the architect J. H. Freedlander and cast by the
Gorham Bronze Company. The monument was renovated by the U.S. Department of the Interior in the early 1980s and regularly offers tours and period military exhibitions in the summer months.

Construction begins
Setting stone, close-up

Setting stone

Ground breaking ceremony with Governor Harmon
2. **The Hunker Villa.** Located across a wide expanse of lawn next to the monument, this imposing summer home reportedly was built in 1870 for Mrs. Mary Lockwood and was known as the Lockwood Villa. Much later, prominent islander Mary Monroe Hunker lived here after the death of her husband, Rear Admiral J. J. Hunker, in 1916. The Italian Villa style of the dwelling is characterized by the long windows and by the square tower that juts a full story above the building’s roofline. At the top of the tower, an open railing encloses what is called a “Captain’s Walk.”

3. **Inselruhe.** Directly north of the Hunker Villa is another impressive home; this one bears the name Inselruhe, which in German means “Island Rest.” This building was designed by Toledo architect James Young for James B. Monroe, a Toledo railroad magnate; it was constructed by the popular island builder George Gascoyne in 1875. Monroe’s daughter was Mary Monroe Hunker, who occupied Inselruhe with her husband be-
fore moving to the Hunker Villa next door after her husband’s death. This structure’s impressive design, sometimes known as “Steamboat Gothic,” is a variation of Italian Villa architecture. Again we see a corner tower (octagonal in this case), long narrow windows, and a broad veranda. The building also features decorative woodwork, moldings, and brackets, along with iron and wooden cresting (roof railings). A variety of interesting and ornate outbuildings is also found on the property. The estate’s present owners have arranged with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to protect and maintain this outstanding vintage summer home.

4. The Acorn Club. Bayview Avenue now takes a sharp right and becomes Chapman Road. Off Chapman a left turn leads to Columbus Avenue (State Route 357), where the Acorn Club soon comes into view. Built by Joseph Tyler about 1870, the structure is now a sportsmen’s club. The building is interesting for the way
it combines the simplicity of the Greek Revival style with the more elaborate elements of Italianate architecture such as the large central cupola and the bracketed roofline.

5. The Ruh House. Across Columbus Avenue is the 1870 home built by German vintner and island pioneer Karl Ruh. The house is flanked by a smokehouse, a press house, and a board-and-batten barn; only two families have owned the property since the dwelling was first built. Very similar to the Acorn Club in its blend of Greek Revival and Italianate features, the Ruh House is a symmetrical, boxlike structure with Italianate brackets but without a cupola.

6. The Henry Burggraf Farm. Farther out along State Route 357 are two farmsteads of the Burggraf family. These early settlers first came from Baden, Germany, to Kelleys Island, but moved to South Bass in 1859, where they established vineyards and a winery. Members of the family became prominent citizens, and Mathias Burggraf served as school superintendent and township trustee. The Henry Burggraf farmhouse was originally built by his parents, Anna and Mathias, Sr., about 1865 or 1870. The farm is still owned by Burggraf descendants. The dwelling is of Italianate design with long, narrow windows and intricate geometric wood
patterns on the small front porch; the stucco-covered walls are scored to resemble stone block. The wooded lot also contains several interesting outbuildings, such as the long, sloping-roofed barn with its board-and-batten siding.

7. The Matthias Burggraf Farm. A short distance from the Henry Burggraf Farm is the farm where Anna and Mathias Burggraf resided until 1921. Built in 1898, the large Queen Anne farmhouse is typically asymmetrical in plan and features a high roof and a broad front porch. Other noteworthy details of the Queen Anne style seen here are the large picture-type window and the double-paned window of the front gable.