

HISTORY COMES ALIVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM

Lifestyle:
Cincinnati

Imagine strolling through a 19th century village past quaint houses with soft light glowing from within. A mother takes freshly-baked cookies from the deep beehive oven, while in the corner her children practice reading. From the barn is heard the resounding pound of a hammer on anvil. The winter wind blows briskly, but the sound of carolers in the distance warms the heart. There is no place quite like historic Heritage Village Museum during the holidays.



Located in lovely Sharon Woods Park just north of Cincinnati, Ohio, Heritage Village consists of 11 historic buildings from Southwest Ohio, including five homes, a church, a doctor's office, print shop, general store, barn and train station, each complete with authentic furnishings of the period. Knowledgeable interpreters in period clothing demonstrate life the way it used to be. Indeed, a trip to Heritage Village is like a step back in time.

"We let people reach out and touch," says Executive Director Jane McCone. "They can try their hand at spinning and weaving. We let them cook over an open fire, or write a message us-

ing a quill and bottle of ink. Or, they may enjoy stringing popcorn and cranberries for their own Christmas tree."

Open spring, summer and fall, Heritage Village becomes a "Christmas Village" throughout December, with buildings decorated as they were over a century ago. This year, December 1-23 during evenings 6 – 9 p.m., visitors can enjoy a leisurely guided lantern tour. On the first two weekends of December, known as "Holly Days,"



visitors will get a "Taste of Years Gone By" with samples of gingerbread, bread pudding, molasses cookies and other old-fashioned treats. One house is decorated in the tradition of Hanukkah. Another one recreates the way an African-American family lived in Cincinnati after the Civil War.

Christmas Village runs simultaneously with "Holiday in Lights," which is operated separately by the Hamilton County Park District. Heritage Village and the historic Hauck House are owned by Historic Southwest Ohio, Inc., a nonprofit educational institution dedicated to promoting an appreciation of 19th century Southwest Ohio culture. Admission to Christmas Village is just \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 5 to 11.

"People who come here tell us this is how their parents or their grandparents lived," McCone says. "Heritage Village lets you visit places you haven't been in a while – places like yesterday and the day before."

The John Hauck House Museum

The John Hauck House is one of the few homes on Cincinnati's historic "Millionaires' Row" in the West End still in its original condition, and the only one open for tours on Friday afternoons. During the holidays, this exquisite 19th century row house mansion is available for elegant Christmas teas, by appointment, for groups of up to 30. Located at 812 Dayton St., Cincinnati, OH 45214.



11450 Lebanon Pike/U.S. 42, Sharonville, OH 45241

For information about the Heritage Village Museum and the John Hauck House Museum, call 513-563-9484 or visit www.heritagevillagecincinnati.org.