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Mantua Historic photos highlight Mantua Revitalization committee captures village downtown 'back then'

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MANTUA -- The Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee has put together a collection of historic photographs that capture how the downtown area used to look.

Committee members Michelle Barnauskas and Becky Newell have put together the presentation, "Mantua -- Past and Present," which highlights many of the village landmarks, including addresses and building uses.

From its beginnings as part of a rural farming community located along the banks of the Cuyahoga River, the presentation shows how Mantua Station quickly grew into a commercial hub when the railroad was completed in the mid-1800s.

Now known as the Village of Mantua, the town has survived periods of growth and decline to become what it is today.

Historians also can see how the commercial district has changed over the years with "Mantua -- Past and Present."

The slide show on DVD features more than 100 photos of downtown properties depicted as they were in the early 1900s, 1960s-1970s and in 2007.

"This DVD shows historical pictures of bustling 1900s Mantua Village with each followed by the same angle and location of Mantua today," Newell said.

The "Mantua -- Past and Present" DVD is complete with background music by local resident and guitarist Steve Vanderink and musician Brian Henke and is now available for a \$20 donation.

Downtown Mantua Revitalization T-shirts are also available for \$15 each. All of the proceeds go to benefit the Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee.

Order can be placed by mailing a request to the committee at P.O. Box 111, Mantua or online at www.mantuashalersvillechamber.org and follow the downtown revitalization link.