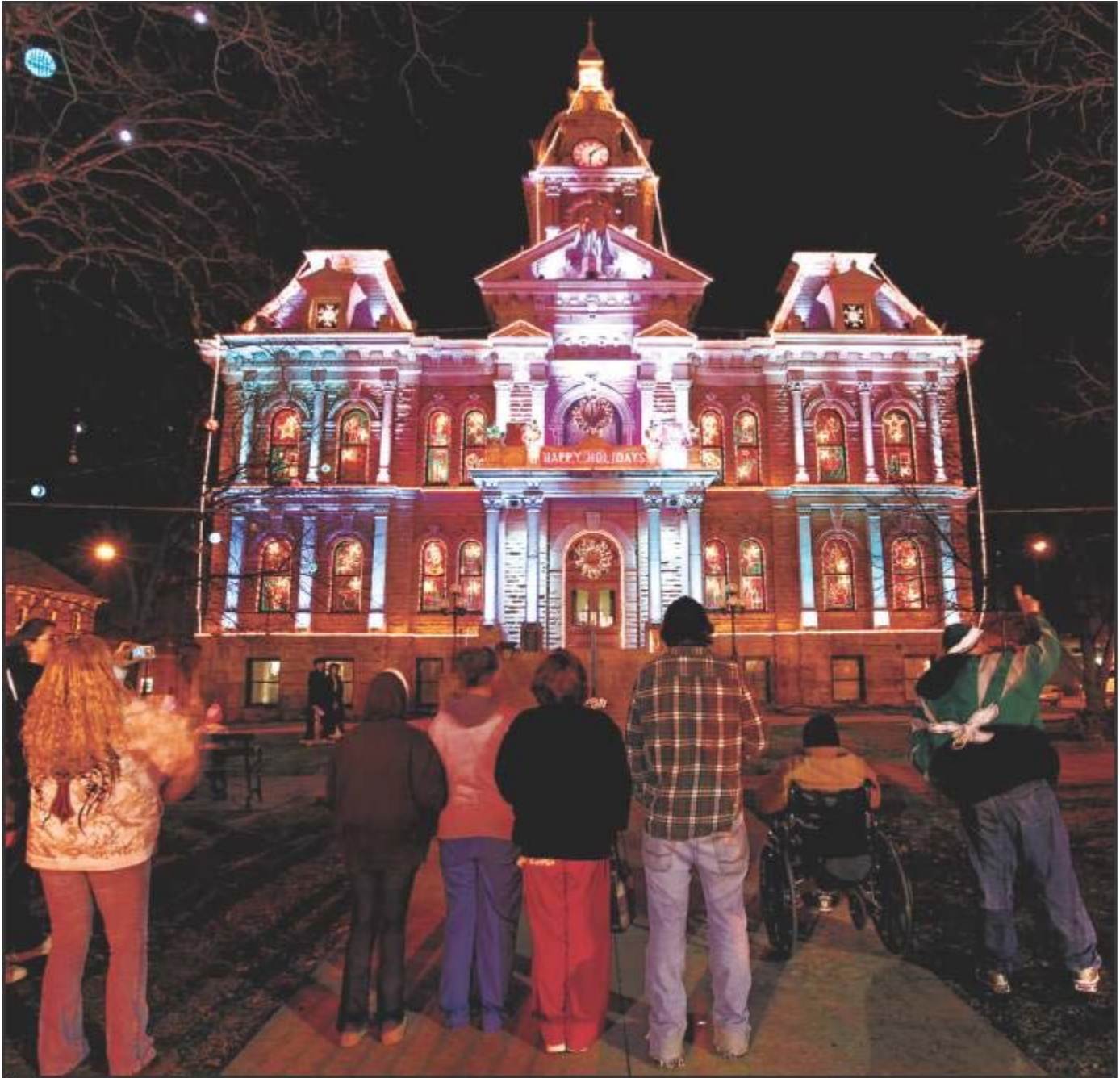


## A high-tech holiday light show attracts crowds to the Guernsey County Courthouse



DORAL CHENOWETH III | DISPATCH

Holiday decorations adorn the Guernsey County Courthouse in Cambridge. The courthouse light show involves thousands of LED lights on hundreds of circuits, all guided by computer and timed to music.

# ALL IS BRIGHT

By Josh Jarman | THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

CAMBRIDGE, Ohio — Grant Hafley has been an audio-video technician, a disc jockey and owner of several successful radio stations. ¶ Now, he can add another title to the list: Father Christmas. ¶ Hafley, 66, is the man behind the holiday light show at the Guernsey County Courthouse, which has drawn thousands to this struggling industrial town at the edge of Appalachia. A nightly event from just after Thanksgiving through December, the light show dazzles visitors with an array of carefully coordinated lights set to both contemporary and traditional Christmas music.

Lights jump and dance in time to the music, racing around the edges of the building. Snowflakes fall in windows to be replaced by images of Christmas presents, all while bathed in multicolored floodlights flashing in rhythm. Lights hung in the trees bring the display out into the courthouse square, surrounding viewers with light and sound.

Hafley approached the Guernsey County commissioners about doing the work in early 2008, and it took almost a year to coordinate,



THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

program and mount the lights. Now in its second year, the display has grown to include more shows, including a segment of children's Christmas songs sung by area

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GUERNSEY COUNTY VISITORS & CONVENTION BUREAU

From late November to early January, the Guernsey County Courthouse light show is presented every evening starting at 6 p.m.

# Tidings of joy

Cambridge's lights, Dickensian displays set the tone for holiday season

By Marilyn Loeser  
FOR THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

**C**AMBRIDGE, Ohio — I love the holidays, but, truth be told, it had been a long time since I'd felt that rush of childhood wonderment.

But then I visited Cambridge, about 80 miles east of Columbus, during Christmas week last year. My husband and I stood on Wheeling Avenue, just across from the courthouse, waiting for the clock to strike 6 p.m.



CLOCK TO STRIKE 6 p.m.

The temperature was in the teens, but as time inched by, more people — families with children, groups of teenagers — crowded the sidewalk.

Then a booming voice announced the Guernsey County Courthouse Holiday Music and Light Show.

The 1881 building suddenly came to life as thousands of pulsating lights — 33 animated light displays and 15,000 lights outlining the building — danced to synchronized holiday music.

Controlled by computer and 300 electrical

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MARILYN LOESER | FOR THE DISPATCH

Cambridge streets are lined with antiques and specialty shops, perfect for holiday shopping.



In the first year, 106 figures created lifelike scenes of Victorian society, but the number of figures and scenes continues to grow. This year, there are 150 figures (including Scrooge, far left, and Marley) helping bring to life 74 scenes.