

# Holmes County

## A Haven Of Hard Work And Craftsmanship

**V**isit scenic Millersburg and Holmes County in North Central Ohio and you might think that, somehow, the clock had suddenly slipped backward by one hundred years.

There are still people who travel by horse and buggy, and in the county's villages, you'll find hitching rails next to the parking places. Stores offer the latest in handmade quilts and fabrics, and bakeries sell bread and rolls baked just a few hours ago in stone hearth ovens.

No, it's not a theme park or an elaborate tourist attraction designed to recreate the past. It's Holmes County, and for a lot of companies looking for the craftsmanship and hard work still such an important part of life there, it's a great place to build or to grow a business.

### The Simple, Rural Life

Since its founding in the early 1800s, Holmes County has been home to a large Amish community. Today, in fact, it's the largest in the country, with more than 17,000 Amish living there.

Of course, there's a large non-Amish population in the county, too, providing a diversity of talents and skills.

Agriculture and woodworking remain important in Holmes County, attracting a broad array of furniture, wood products, food, and food processing employers to the community. Those industries also attract, every weekend, thousands of visitors looking to buy a handmade, solid oak table for their living room or a few pounds of homemade Amish cheese to take home with them.

The county still has many made-to-order furniture producers, but its industrial and commercial base is spreading beyond these traditional industries. Manufacturers of plastics, automotive parts and components, home remodeling products, electronic control systems, and other products have discovered that the community's work force is at home with technology *and* tradition.

### Getting To And From Holmes County

Holmes County is a rural area, but it's only about 30 miles from several interstate highways that link its communities to more than a dozen major markets throughout the country—markets that account for more than half the country's consumers, and more than 60 percent of its industrial facilities.



Millersburg, Ohio



Holmes County Courthouse

rates there are already relatively low. The county has, however, been very aggressive — and successful — in seeking state and federal grants to help companies finance transportation and infrastructure improvements.

### 'Come Share With Us'

For almost 200 years, Holmes County has offered a special way of life to its residents. Today, that way of life is part of what makes it such an attractive place for employer and employee alike.

The county's economic development efforts aren't about to harm that way of life.

But business and industry have always been a part of those communities, and the welcome mat is out for companies that can share that way of life.

### For More Information

To learn more about becoming a part of the Holmes County community, contact the Holmes County Office of Planning and Economic Development, 2 Court Street, Suite 21, Millersburg, Ohio 44654. Phone 330-674-8625. Fax 330-674-1582. E-mail at [planning@valkyrie.net](mailto:planning@valkyrie.net)

