THE MUSEUM

The National Road-Zane Grey Museum, opened in 1973, recalls one of the most colorful chapters in land transportation history of Ohio and the nation.
The National Road, the first highway West, became the route which opened trade for our settlers.

MAP

THE NATIONAL ROAD — Cumberland to Vandalia
The top number indicated distance from Cumberland, Maryland where the National Road began. Mile markers were on the north side of the road located every mile.
CONESTOGA FREIGHTER WAGON

This wagon carried freight such as tobacco, flour and other goods. Notice the large rear wheel. This wagon could be compared to the semi truck of today.
TOLL HOUSE  Toll houses were built to raise money to keep the National Road in good repair. Many windows in the toll house allowed the gatekeeper a distant view in all directions.
Y-BRIDGE

The Y-Bridge at Zanesville is world famous. It was built in 1814 at the point where the Licking River joins the Muskingum River. Today the Y-Bridge is not covered.
BLACKSMITH

The blacksmith used four basic elements: Fire — which he held in the forge, Air — which he controlled with the bellows, Earth — from which he obtained the iron, and Water — to cool the iron and temper the steel.
WHEELWRIGHT

Wheelwrights and blacksmiths were common along the National Road. The wheelwright was the predecessor of the filling station mechanic.
During the great “moving West” period along the National Road many taverns came into being. Taverns were also the seat of government, serving as court rooms and meeting places.
SAFETY BICYCLE  The safety bicycle gave new importance to the National Road after 1880. Women donned bloomers to participate in the new sport. The League of American Wheelmen sought highway improvement.
ART POTTERY

The Zanesville area was a leading producer of art pottery. Do you have any art pottery in your home?
ZANE GREY
FATHER OF
THE WESTERN
STORY

Zane Grey is most widely known for his western books. His most popular book was “Riders of the Purple Sage” which was published in 1912.