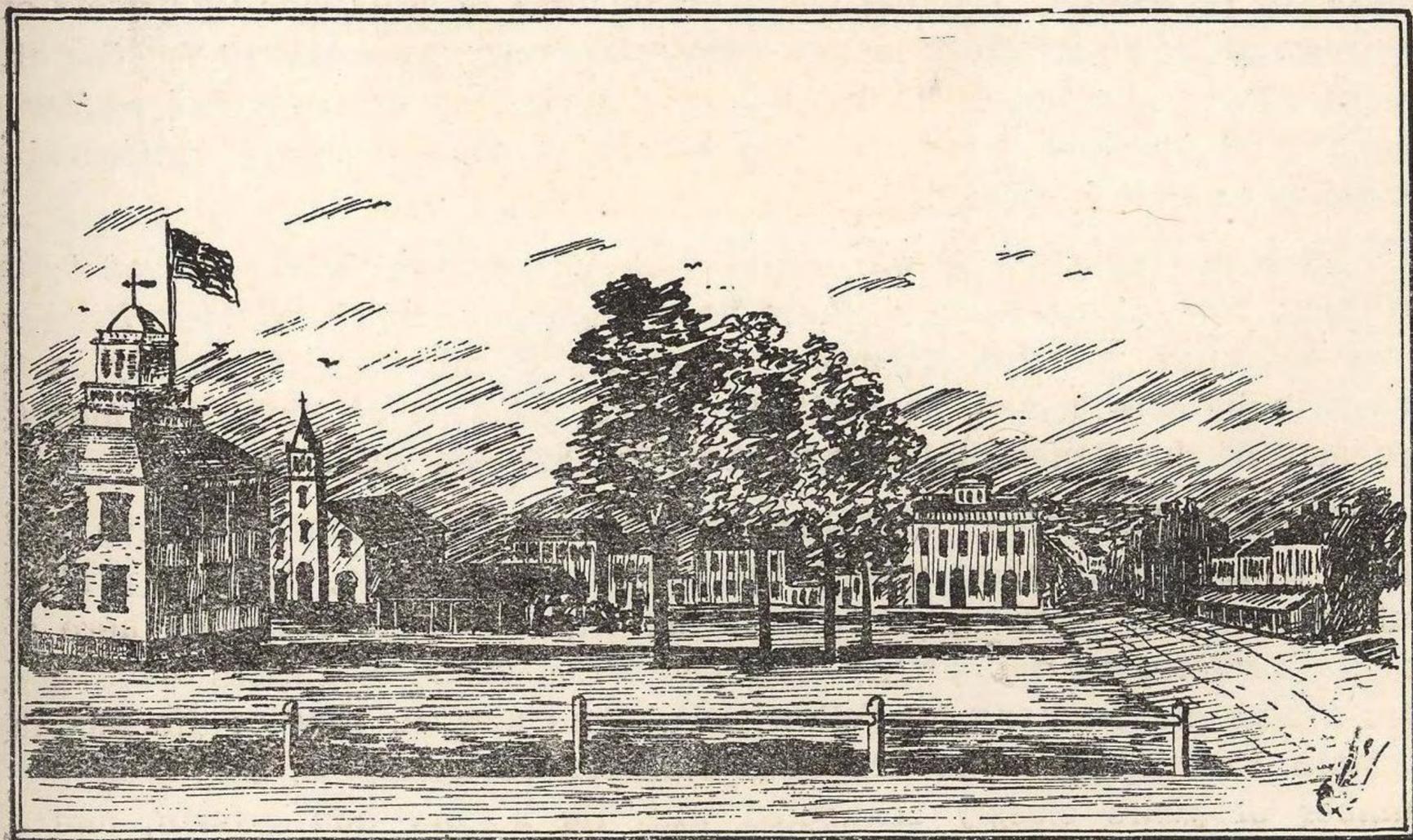


clared "the entire County of Richland a separate township, which shall be called and known by the name of Madison." Under this jurisdiction, James Cunningham was the first constable of Madison township, which was equivalent to being the first sheriff of the county. The county did not assume its official function as such until the 7th of June, 1813.

Captain Cunningham took an active part in the war of 1812. His company was at one time encamped on the public square, and the incident was recalled last Saturday when the logs of his old home were delivered on the Court House lawn. An exciting incident of the Captain's army life occurred when he was encamped with Colonel Kratzer, on Alum creek, near Berkshire, Delaware County, in August, 1812. One day three suspicious looking soldiers made their appearance on parade ground and were immediately arrested, charged with being deserters. They protested their innocence, and



Public Square, Mansfield, as sketched by Henry Howe in 1845

stated that they had been out on duty as a fatigue party under Colonel Root, and that having heard of General Hull's surrender (August 16,) they determined to make good their escape, fearing capture by the Indians or British. Colonel Kratzer had not previously heard of Hull's surrender, for even bad news traveled slowly in those days. Telegraphs and telephones were then unknown. Colonel Root was stationed at that time about nine miles distant from Berkshire, and Colonel Kratzer desired to send the news he had received at once to Colonel Root. But night was coming on and Alum creek was on one of the big booms for which it was then noted. There had been heavy rains and the water overflowed the banks and the drift-wood was floating down on the swiftly moving current. To reach Colonel Root, this maddened stream must be crossed and Colonel Kratzer asked for a volunteer to carry the message. A number of soldiers volunteered to make the trip and several mounted their horses and plunged into the stream, where float-