

WARREN HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

We invite you to take a walk through our past.

1



Warren County Historical Society
210 Fourth Avenue
1873 - Second Empire Style

Warren industrialist Thomas Struthers purchased and finished building the Second Empire style house after the 1871 death of his son Tom, the original builder of the structure. Upon completion, Struthers gave the house as a wedding gift to his daughter Anna Eliza and her husband George Wetmore. The house was solidly built with double layers of red brick in both outer and interior supporting walls. Solid walnut was used for the detailed woodwork in the main part of the house. In 1893, Charles Schimmelfeng purchased the home, and in 1950, Miss Frances Schimmelfeng sold it to the county and the structure became the Courthouse Annex. In 1964, the Warren County Commissioners gave residence to the Warren County Historical Society.

12



Warren County Courthouse
204 Market Street
1876 - Second Empire Style

Architect M. E. Beebe from Buffalo designed the courthouse in the Second Empire style at a cost of \$97,434.59. All decorative trimmings, including pilasters and the main entrance archways with side pillars, were of Ohio stone. The courtrooms and chambers were planned for the second and third floors. Georgia pine was used for the office and courtroom floors, while marble tiles made up the hall floors. Walnut woodwork is found on the first floor and pine is on the second floor. Equipped with a clock made-to-order in New York and a 1600-pound bell from Cincinnati, the courthouse tower also featured a statue of Justice raised in 1877, 125 feet from the ground. However, recent renovations have placed the original statue in the main entryway, while a fiberglass replica stands atop the structure.

11



Mead-Shear House
312 Market Street
1868 - Italianate Style

Warren Borough sold this lot to Medora and Boon Mead, a successful lumberman, on August 25, 1865, for \$1,928. It was built in the popular style of the day as a brick structure enclosing wood-frame walls, with a slated, tinued roof and bay windows. In 1897, the house was sold to a Warren clothing businessman, David Shear, who lived there until 1908 when he retired and moved to New York City. Captain Ulysses Grant Lyons, the succeeding owner, worked at the Conewango Refining Company and was in charge of oil procurement for the United States government during World War I. The house was sold to Clyde Smith in 1927 by the Warren National Bank after Lyons drowned in a boating accident. Smith's plans to replace the house with a gas station were thwarted by public opinion, and the building was sold in 1929 to the First Church of Christ, Scientist. In 2019, the house was sold and renovated.

10



Jamieson House
311 Market Street
1875 - Second Empire Style

Mr. H. A. Jamieson started the building of his home in 1874. When it was nearly finished, tragedy hit on January 12, 1874, when a fire built by the plasterers in a cellar stove to thaw frozen mortar grew too large and spread throughout the building. The house, having cost \$12,000 to \$14,000 already, was rebuilt and nearly completed by October 1875. Mr. Jamieson installed a 125-barrel water tank in the attic, keeping in mind the need of water he had experienced during the fire because of Warren's lack of city water. The house was constructed with a bay window and a wide piazza at the front, with numerous porches at the back. The three-story structure is topped with a mansard roof. The house remained in the Jamieson family for 60 years until 1938 when it was divided into private apartments and offices. The interior staircase, with its landing lighted by stained glass, is one original beautiful detail that still remains.

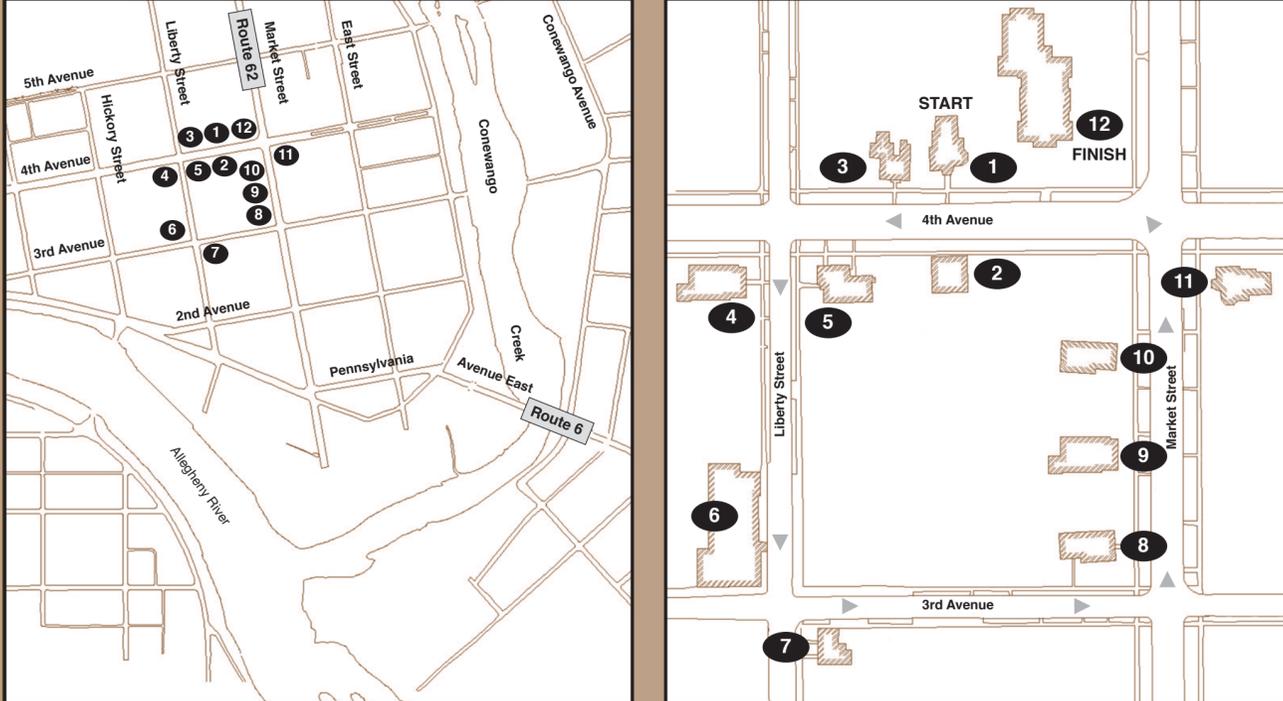
2



The Mansion House
215 Fourth Avenue
1833 - Greek Revival Style

The lot was originally owned by a Native American, Jacob Snow (Spotted Coat). When the stone building was built for use as a tavern in 1833, the owner, Ebenezer Jackson, set a precedent for its long life as a tavern and hotel. The stone used for the two-foot-thick walls is believed to have been locally quarried near the top of Tanner Hill. Born as the Warren Hotel, the house was purchased by Robert Falconer for use as the Lumberman's Bank in 1835. A reinforced closet still in the house served as a bank vault. Archibald Tanner purchased it in 1837 after the bank failed. From that point on, it became the Tanner House. In 1846 it changed again, this time to the Diamond House, advertised as, "Convenient for the traveling public generally but especially for Judges, Jurors, Witnesses, parties, and all others having business at Court or the Public Offices at anytime." Presently the building offers apartments for local residents.

This brochure offers a route for a self-guided walking tour approximately one-half mile in length. Depending on your speed, allow at least one hour to complete the entire tour. By following the numbers in consecutive order, your self-guided tour will begin at the Warren County Historical Society (1.), 210 Fourth Avenue, and return you to the corner of Market Street and Fourth Avenue, the Warren County Courthouse (12.). Several of the buildings along the route are public facilities; however, most of the stops are residential properties. We ask that you please observe their privacy.



9



Scofield House
307 Market Street
1890 - Tudor Style

The late Victorian mansion at 307 Market Street was built in 1890 for Archibald Tanner Scofield, son of Judge Glenni and Laura Tanner Scofield and the grandson of Archibald Tanner, one of Warren's earliest prominent citizens. Mr. Scofield was an oil producer. The brick and half-timbered house with stucco detail has a wide veranda extending across the front of the house, ending on the south side in a unique porte-cochere. In the rear of the property is located a large coach house. Over the years, as transportation changed, the coach house went through several changes. Presently it is occupied as an apartment. After the Scofield heirs moved from Warren in 1920, five different owners occupied the gracious home. Beginning in the 1940s, the home was sectioned into apartments and the north end of the original veranda was removed.

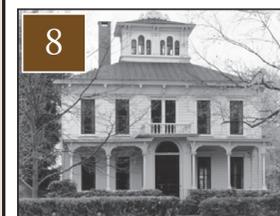
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Noyes-Donaldson House
216 Fourth Avenue
1843 - Greek Revival Style

One of the oldest homes in Warren. As nearly as can be determined, the front section of the two-family house was built sometime before 1843, although it is entirely possible that an earlier building may have occupied the lot shortly after 1828. Between 1828 and 1895 many prominent citizens of that era owned or secured the lot, including Lansing Wetmore, Darius Titus, Benjamin Nesmith, James Olney, Jerome Davis, Rasselas Brown and Thomas Struthers. In 1895, however, the house was sold for \$5,000 to E. G. Noyes. Members of this family have owned or occupied the house since the 1880s. It is believed that the front part of the house on both sides was the earliest structure because of the great width of the floor boards and the use of corner risers all the way up. The rear section is of later construction.

8



Falconer-Smith-Borger House
301 Market Street
1866 - Italianate Style

One of Warren's finest old frame homes was built for Patrick Falconer, nephew of Robert Falconer, one of Warren's most prominent residents. Both men moved to Warren from Scotland. A house belonging to Isaac Eddy at this location was moved to the rear of the lot to make room for Falconer's new home in 1866. This unique home is a monument to good taste in architectural style. Two unusual features highlighted in the exterior design of the house are the large cupola gracing the front section of the roof, and the frame siding detail (rustication) that imitates the appearance of stone work. Much of the original detail work has been retained, even as the structure has become home to modern offices. Currently the building is owned and occupied by Borger & Horsley, Attorneys & Counselors At Law.

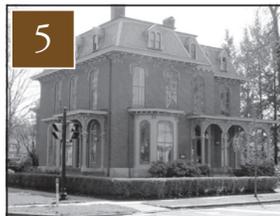
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Siggins-Smith House
315 Liberty Street
1907 - Eclectic Style

The Siggins-Smith House was completed in 1907 for David Siggins, president of the Warren Electric Street Railway. He purchased the property which included a white frame house in 1895. Architect E.A. Phillips, a popular architect of the time, was hired to design the new home. With the Victorian Age gone by, the house was built of brown Hummelstone imported from eastern Pennsylvania. It includes classical columns and archways in the hall with beamed ceilings and rough brick fireplaces. The exterior use of natural woods, large plate glass windows and decorative lead glass are elements also used in craftsman houses and prairie houses of the period designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The last family member to occupy the house was Quinn Smith who passed away in 2006, and the house was sold.

5



Brown-Citro House
318 Liberty Street
1868 - Second Empire Style

The creation of this fine Victorian home is documented well in the "Home Matters" section of the *Warren Mail* from 1867 to 1869. Judge Brown brought a new style of home-building to Warren, as this was the first brick veneer house in town, with a tower near the front of the mansard roof. The paper reported that it was also "the first and only slated roof in town at that time." A balloon frame was put up and sided outside with boards. The *Warren Mail* explained it further, "... then a brick wall four inches thick is laid all around it, fastened to the timber with spikes or ties, having one inch or so of space between the brick and boards. This, it is claimed, gives the advantage of a brick house outside and the dryness of a frame building inside." The style was widely adopted in Warren for other mansions.

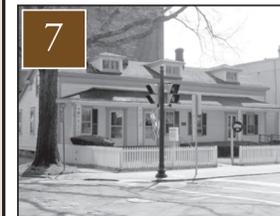
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Struthers Library Theatre
302 Third Avenue
1883 - Second Empire Style

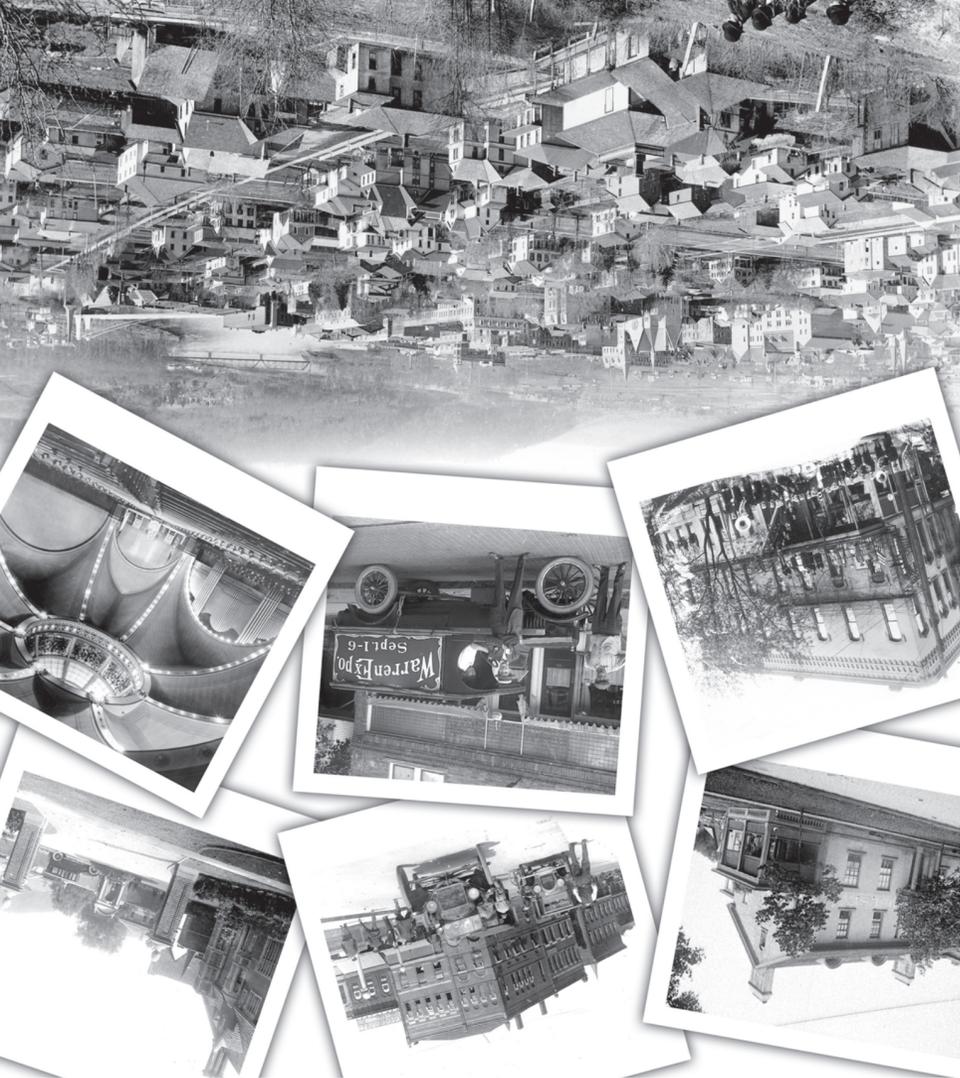
The Struthers Library Theatre building had its start as a public library and cultural center in Warren in 1883. Thomas Struthers, a concerned and active Warren resident, was responsible for its creation. The library served the public until a new library building was built in 1916 on Market Street. The opera house was complete with plush folding chairs, boxes, balcony, dressing rooms and could be converted to a ballroom by laying a folding wooden dance floor over the orchestra pit. In 1919, a major change to a "modern up-to-date" theater occurred. From that point forward, the theater has continually changed according to the desires of the public and media trends, from opera to vaudeville to motion pictures. A favorite local landmark, the Struthers Library Theatre continues to provide a valuable community resource.

7



Jackson-Sill House
224 Liberty Street
Circa 1830 - Greek Revival Style

In the midst of downtown stands the Jackson-Sill House, or the house with the white picket fence. The cottage is one of the oldest in Warren, built by Thomas W. Jackson who purchased the land in 1830. In 1922, Warren printer, John T. Newell, purchased the property from the previous owner, Maria Sill, and rented part of it to the West Penn Oil Company. For many years it served as the office of the Leo H. Ward Company operating under the old and well-known name of the Newell Press. The property was purchased in 1979 by Joseph H. DeFrees. The upstairs rooms have seen the unusual occupations of a patent medicine firm, the making of jig-saw puzzles, an oil laboratory, and a studio for a commercial photographer. At one time the Cottage Tea Room was located downstairs, and today it houses small businesses.



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For additional information, please contact the Warren Historic District Information Center:

Guided group tours of the Warren Historic District are only available by appointment. Call the Warren County Historical Society to organize a private tour. (Fee charged for group tours.)

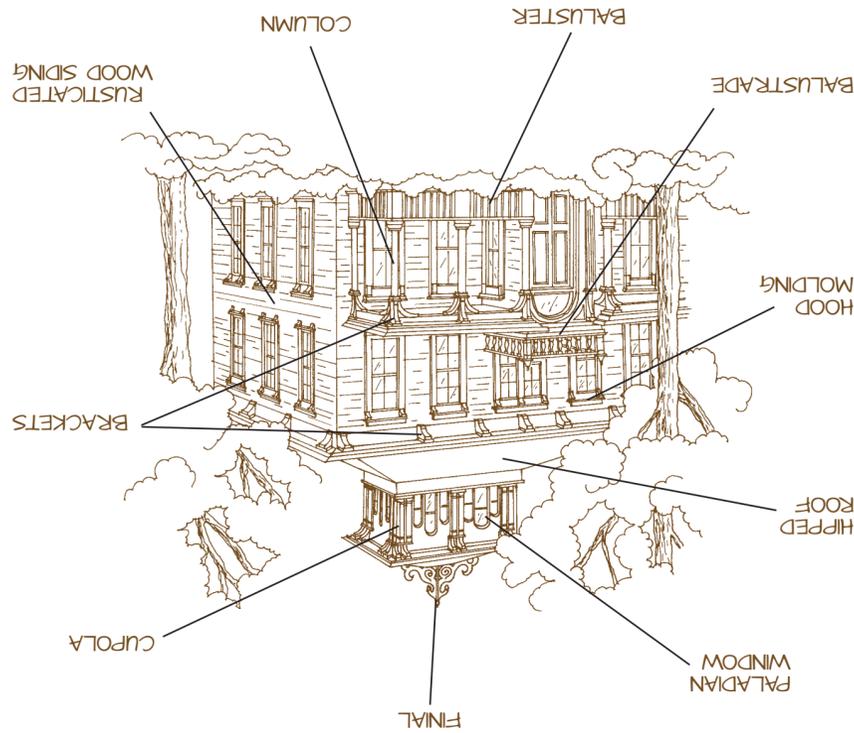
GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Upon completion, the walking tour will return you to the Warren County Courthouse, located on the corner of Market Street and Fourth Avenue. The Warren County Courthouse is open throughout the year Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you are concluding your tour during these hours, consider going inside to ponder the building's unique design and view the original statue of Justice, now on display in the lobby.

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

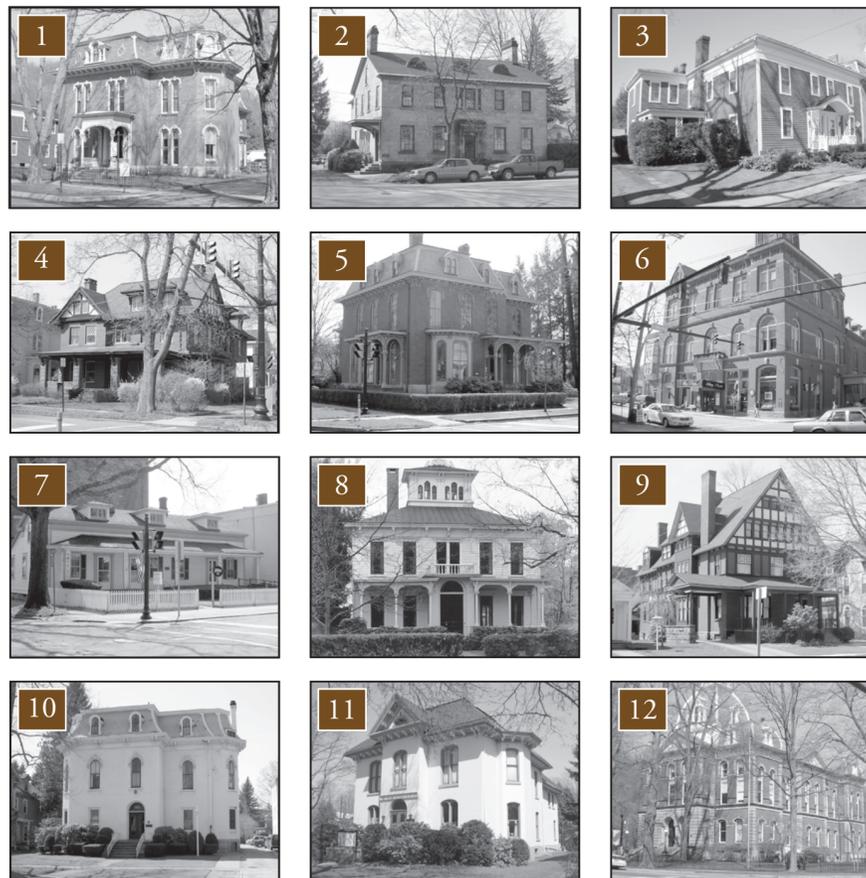
The history of Warren is woven of the very fabric of Americana. Few locales in the East can claim a tapestry of human endurance and accomplishment so representative of the frontier spirit. Its settlers moved into a wilderness which few men had seen, against odds which could discourage even the hardest of today's outdoorsmen. In 1795, the town of Warren, named for General Joseph Warren who was killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill, was commissioned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and surveyed by General William Irvine and Andrew Ellicott. Its first structure, which stood until 1840, was a log building erected by the Holland Land Company as a supply depot. Today the Warren Historic District encompasses nearly 600 structures and represents a wide variety of architectural styles. The town has changed dramatically since it was created in 1795, and many of the grand structures designed during the early industry and oil booms remain as an integral part of our heritage. Visitors, students, researchers, and residents are invited to survey the splendor of the district's architecture. Enjoy the tour.

WELCOME TO THE WARREN HISTORIC DISTRICT



(STRUCTURE SHOWN IS IN THE ITALIANATE STYLE)

COMMON ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS



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We invite you to take a walk through our past.

* The image featured on the front of this brochure is house #5, the Brown-Citro House.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Warren Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 1999. The historic district encompasses nearly 600 structures, both commercial and residential.

The descriptive text herein has been provided through the resources of the Warren County Historical Society, with excerpts from the books entitled *Historic Buildings in Warren County*, Volumes 1-5, 1971-1986, and the *Historic Warren Walking Tour Booklet* printed by Charles R. Tranter & Company, 1980 Edition.

This brochure highlights the architecture of twelve structures within the district, and has been financed by the American Legion Post 135.



Special thanks to the following organizations and individuals who helped make this publication possible.

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