

History Hidden in Plain Sight

Can you find the answers to history's mysteries
that have been in front of you all this time?



Warren County Historical Society

210 4th Avenue, Warren, PA 16365

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www.warrenhistory.org

Facts & Questions

Use the map and the clues to find the answers to these questions which can be found on location.

*Some may be obvious,
while others might take keen eyes to find.
Look up. Look down. Look all around.
History is everywhere!*

1. Four nations have laid claim on the land that is now Warren County. The first known was the Seneca Nation, here well before Warren County was formed. The 3 flags on the yard sign of the Warren County Historical Society belong to the next 3 nations. What countries are they? (210 4th Ave.)

2. The Mansion House, made of stone quarried just up Liberty Street Extension known as “Tanner Hill,” is one of the oldest remaining structures in town, having been built in _____ by Ebenezer Jackson. The building has walls that are 2 feet thick and has been a hotel, tavern, bank, and now apartments. (215 4th Ave.)

3. Warren’s Post Office was built in the year _____ under architect James Wetmore after it outgrew space rented at the Struthers Library Theatre and then another location on PA Ave., largely in response to New Process/Blair’s extensive mail order sales. A symbol for a _____ shelter is on the building’s west side, revealing the building’s history with the Civil Defense as an emergency shelter. (210 3rd Ave. W.)

4. The War Penn Building was built in 1923 by John T. _____ whose career began as a “printer’s devil” at the post office before opening his own printing business here at the age of 24. (213 3rd Ave. W.)

5. The brick building adjacent to Kelsey Park reveals a faint yet large remnant of the sizable department store known as _____ that was once at this location. The store opened in 1928 and stayed in business until 1974 when Betty Lee moved in. (218 Liberty St.)

6. Across the street from #5 is another painted sign, this one of the once popular store, _____, which opened in 1876 and sold a variety of goods including interior decorations, wallpaper, and stationery. (217 Liberty St.)

7. In 1885, the building at 211 Liberty Street was erected by Alexander B. _____, a contractor who also built an early Methodist Church in Warren and Jamestown’s Sherman House which was once billed as the finest hotel in western NY. (211 Liberty St.)



Liberty Street, looking north from 2nd Avenue, 1905

8. This section of town has historically been the center for local banks. One of them was Warren _____ Bank. On opening day, a total over \$40,000 was deposited, an astonishing amount in 1893. It would grow to be among the top 5% largest banks in the US in the 1960s. (330 2nd Ave.)



300 block of 2nd Avenue, 1940s

9. 306 2nd Avenue is deceptively large on the inside and even has a side entrance on Liberty Street. It was once home to the large department store, _____ Co., which closed in 1997 after 75 years of operation. (306 2nd Ave.)

10. Warren Savings Bank & Trust was chartered in _____ with a start-up capital of \$12,500 under bank president Lewis Findlay Watson. The bank's policy was to only hire highly qualified employees and pay them very well, a strategy that worked as, in the first 25 years in business, there was a total of only 28 employees. (315 2nd Ave.)

11. The _____ Bank was organized in 1864, particularly created for accommodation of merchants, manufacturers, and businesses. (310 2nd Ave.)

12. 208 Hickory has a long history of housing successful restaurants, including Warren Café (1900s), James E. Madden _____ & Chop House (1910s), New York Restaurant (1920s-70s), and Snuffy’s (1980s-). (208 Hickory St.)

13. Soldiers and Sailors Monument has stood tall since 1909 under Eben N. Ford Post 366 Grand Army of the Republic. Thousands attended the unveiling of the monument that reads, in part, “On fame’s eternal camping ground, Their silent tents are spread; And glory guards with solemn round, The _____ of the dead.” (SE corner of Hickory & PA Ave.)

14. The gazebo at Soldiers and Sailors Park was strategically constructed with 13 columns, each bearing the name of one of the first 13 men of Warren’s Company I, 112th Regiment, who died during WWI. One of these men was Private Elzie _____ who was killed in France, September 29, 1918. (SE corner of Hickory and PA Ave.)

15. Atop the stately triangular building known as the “Flat Iron Building” due to its resemblance to an iron sits a weathervane with an unusual creature for such a place. This _____ was designed by local artist Elton Davis in 1906, and a local mascot was born. (2nd & PA Ave.)



2nd & Pennsylvania Avenues

16. Many people may not realize that cigar manufacturing was once a booming business in Warren. A few who made names for themselves in the business including Frederick Fette, A.E. Boeschlin, and John Lunn, but the name most often on local cigars was _____ who set up shop at the age of 17 in 1874. It would grow to employ 100 people and stayed in business until 1937. The popularity of the much smaller cigarette which was easily carried by US soldiers took the bottom out of the cigar industry. (325 PA Ave. W., seen from bridge.)

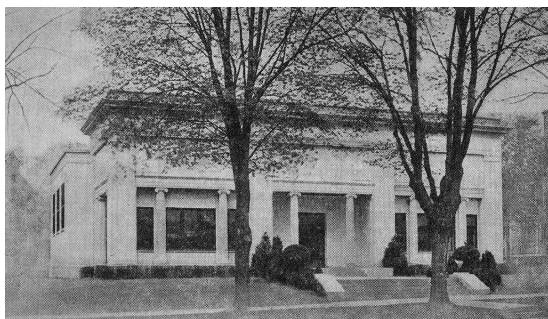
17. Some locals might remember this restaurant as “The Busy Bee” which was opened in 1936 and family-run until it closed almost 80 years later. The _____ family who operated the popular restaurant into the 21st century is the same as the man who erected the building. (229 PA Ave. W)

18. The name _____ is synonymous with a long-standing dry cleaner, but it also goes way back in Warren’s past with as a dry-goods store. (219 PA Ave., W.)



300 block of Pennsylvania Avenue West

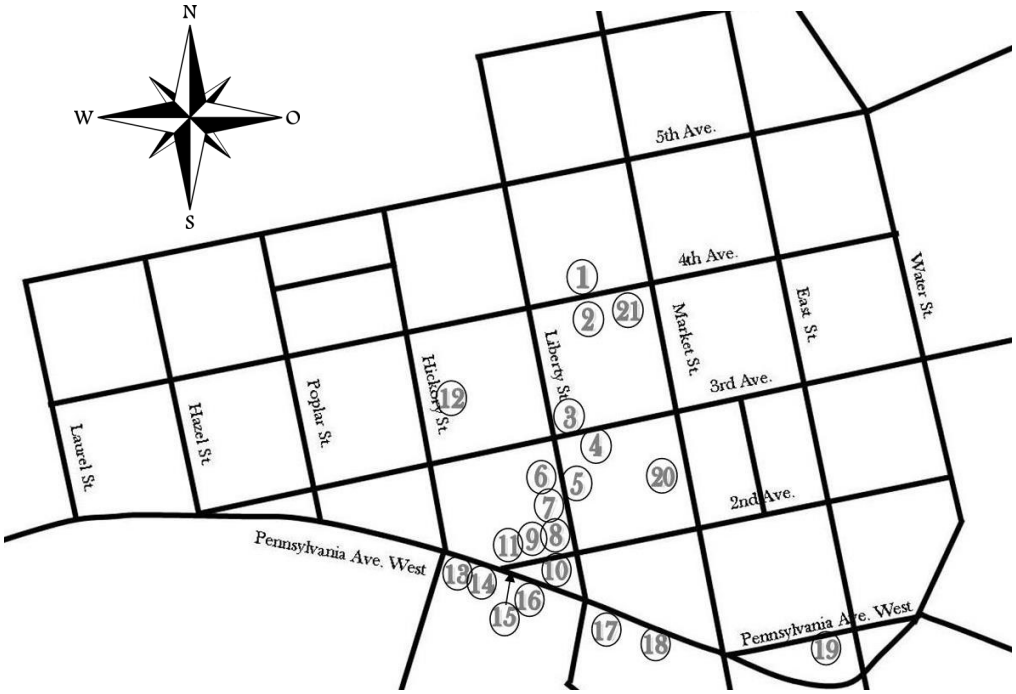
19. The first phone line in this part of the state was strung near here by James W. Stearns in the summer of 1878. He rented lines from _____ Telephone Co. which later called this brick building home and was known to hire many local ladies called “Hello Girls” as operators. (31 PA Ave., W.)



Warren Public Library, c.1916

20. Warren’s first public library was actually in the Struthers Library Theatre. In 1916 when it outgrew its space, this one was built. It was designed by Warren’s Charles Wetmore, of Warren & Wetmore architecture firm, who also designed famous landmarks such as Grand Central Station and the Biltmore Hotel. According to the library, “history is the story of the human race in conflict with nature and with its own elemental _____ but ever inspiring.” (205 Market St.)

21. Wetmore Park sits at what was originally planned to be the center of town, once known as “The Diamond,” at the intersection of Market and 4th. Tucked back in the little park is a red caboose in memory of _____, a children’s book author from Warren whose most famous work was *The Little Red Caboose*. (SW corner of Market & 4th Ave.)



Thank you for taking this historic journey with us!

Want to know more?

Experience the history of Warren County at the
Warren County Historical Society:

- * Genealogical Resources
- * Historic District Information
- * Artifacts & Exhibits
- * Local Historic Publications
- * Programs & Events
- * Prints, Maps, & Gifts

Warren County Historical Society

Hours of Operation:

Monday thru Friday from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM



* As you enjoy this walk through Warren's beautiful Historic District, please follow traffic laws, respect private property, and proceed at your own risk.

Answers: 1. France, England, US, 2. 1883, 3. 1931, fallow, 4. Newell, 5. Montgomery Ward, 6. Wendelboe's, 7. McKain, 8. National, 9. GC Murphy's, 10. 1870, 11. First National, 12. Oyster, 13. bitouac, 14. Lynch, 15. dragon, 16. Sieber, 17. Varala, 18. Jarvis, 19. Bell, 20. passions, 21. Mattan Potter