

Walking Tour

Mansfield PA

Business District

The story of Mansfield and its people and businesses is recorded in its buildings. As you follow this path through town, even if its only a section or so, you'll be reminded of that story and locate a business you know was there once but can't quite remember where.

We can't list every business that operated in each building, but will mention some that were there



for an extended time. While Mansfield has seen many changes, some of our buildings have been here for generations as old friends.

Starting at Smythe Park, walk north on S. & N. Main Streets to 83 N. Main. Cross the street and walk south on N. & S. Main to College Ave. Walk up College Ave. to the MU campus, follow the guide and come back down Wellsboro Street. Not all buildings display their number, but the 2016 primary business in each storefront should help identify them.

1. South Main Street—West Side

South to North from Smythe Park

Smythe Park: The borough bought this in 1879 from the estate of Dr. Smythe. It was home to the Mansfield Fair. It is now part of the public school property and hosts community events.

First Night Football Memorial: Honors the Mansfield Fair 1892 night football game under electric lights, first in the world.

Railroad Historical Marker: The Corning & Blossburg Railroad passed through here.

54 **Telephone Building:** Built in 1948 as the telephone exchange, it has been a video store, a donut shop, The Hungry Monkey and now houses the Chamber of Commerce.

50 **Northwest Bank:** Built in 1954 as the Post Office, it was replaced in 1980. Northwest Bank has used it since that time.

44 **Mansfield Embroidery:** Built in 1971 as Burger Boy, this building is located on the site of Barnes' Gas Station.

26 **Mansfield Inn:** This stands where the old

Mansfield Hotel, which was razed in 1957, stood.

The **Twain Theater** was set back in the space which is now parking.

14 **Waldman Building:** Built in 1988, this building replaced three buildings that had been used as a News Room, Barber Shop and Caracciolo's Shoe Repair.

The addition of a conference room for the borough replaced the restaurant that was razed in 2010. It had been Cheesman's X-Trail, Ernie's Restaurant, Dutch Pantry and more.

12 **Judge's Grocery:** Built in 1923 for groceries, it is best remembered as Hartsock's Bakery. It is now Gannon Insurance.

8 **Pitts Building 1884:** This second Pitts Building was built in 1884 by Daniel Pitts following a fire in an earlier wood building. It housed Judge's Store, a successor to Pitts, until 2000. It is now home to Strohecker Vision Care.

2 **Pitts Building:** This three story block on the corner, built in 1874 by the Pitts brothers, is best remembered as Coles Pharmacy. Markson's Clothing was on the left in the 1950s.



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2. North Main Street—West Side

South to North from Intersection

Orphan’s Soldier’s School Memorial Monument.

Built in 1870 by Fordyce Allen, the school became the Hotel Allen in 1889 when the orphans moved to Harford PA. It burned in 1904.

1-5 The **Shepard-Bailey Building**, built in 1905, replaced the burned Hotel Allen. Initially it housed Shepard’s Clothing and the Grange National Bank. Dr. Meaker had his hospital upstairs in the 1930s. It housed Garrison’s Men’s Store and Sours Variety Store and now Bearly Enough and Bethany’s Jewelry.

7 Built in 1903 by **Shepard & Miller** it was first clothing, then A&P groceries, then Cady’s Men’s Shop. It is now Oswald’s Bicycle Shop. Notice the S & M initials in the decorations at the roof line.

9 Built in 1909 by **Michael Shipbanker** for clothing, it was Baynes Shoe Store for many years. Lucky Star Restaurant now occupies the space.

11 **C. V. Elliott** built the pharmacy in 1857. It operated as Bates and then Terry’s Drugs. It is now Special Occasions Florist.

15 Run as a grocery store for many years, Sadie Finesilver operated her clothing store here from 1927 to 1955 when she relocated to No. 17. The original building was razed and this one built in 1955. It was first occupied by Western Auto, and now by Country Trader.

17 The original building with many former occupants was razed in 1955 and this new building erected. Sadie Finesilver’s clothing store was the first occupant. Fabricana was also here. It is now Red Rose Antiques.

19 In 1882, the grocery store on this location burned, and Justus B. Clark built this brick building. Kear’s Store, Abrams Variety Store, and from 1941, Hazel Witmore’s store operated here. Hallmark Cards, Chez Gabrielle Beauty Salon and now Yorkholo Brewing Co. have used this space.

21 When Nathaniel Kingsley’s Shoe Store burned in 1882, he replaced it with this brick building. William Neal and later Harry and Joyce Fish sold shoes here for decades. Chango’s Cantina is in this location now.

25 Built after the 1882 fire, this location has been used for furniture and undertaking under many owners. VanNoy's Furniture was located here. It now houses Ten West Espresso.

27 This empty lot on the corner of North Main and Central was the location of the **Welch Block** built in 1884 by G. Welch. Rose Brothers' Department Store was here until 1929 when Preston's took over the building. Ben Franklin and Green Stamps used this storefront. It burned in 1996.

61 The **original Methodist Church** built in 1849 has held several congregations since the Methodists built their newer brick church in 1872. In 2013 The History Center on Main Street acquired the building for its museum displays and events.

71 **Mansfield Free Public Library** was built in 1912 of vanilla brick. A Carnegie library, it still occupies this original structure.

83 The **Neal House** was built in 1917 by Dr. Leonard and Estella Husted Neal. It is a Sears-Roebuck house occupied by the Neal family until 2004. It now houses The History Center on Main Street .

3. North Main Street—East Side

South to North

54 **Elliott Building:** this little brick building, built in 1881, is now painted white. It was the business location of Oliver Elliott and Sons Shoes for many years and a millinery shop. It is now a residence.

The Baptist Church, built in 1888, is the second erected on this location.

Rural Electrification Marker commemorates the Tri-County Rural Cooperative that was part of installing electricity in our rural area in the 1930s.

18 **The Ross House:** Built ca 1854 by Andrew and Sarah McKune Ross, this has been a residence, a maternity hospital, a funeral home and is now the ReMax and North Forest real estate office.

12 **Fred Allen Block:** The Mansfield Advertiser occupied this building until 1940. Dr. Sanford made it his office. Papa V's Restaurant is now located here.

8 **Harness Shop:** William Holland's Harness Shop, established in the 1830s, located to this building in 1885. Fred Jupenzlax bought it in 1901, and it was operated by his nephew, Ernie Jupenzlax



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until his death in 2000. It has since been The Main Twist ice cream shop and is now Farmers insurance.

2-6 **The Allen Block:** Completed in 1878, it housed a series of hardware stores owned by Fred Allen in 1878 to Gerry Calkins. Strait's Hardware had the longest residence. Initially two stories, a third was added for the Soldiers Orphans. It is now Night & Day Coffee Shop.

The left storefront in the Allen Block was The Wright Shop for many years, later the Petticoat Shop. It is now Marge's Corner on Country.

The World War One Memorial on the south side of the Allen Block: Commemorating local people who served in the military in World War One, this has been refurbished several times by the American Legion.

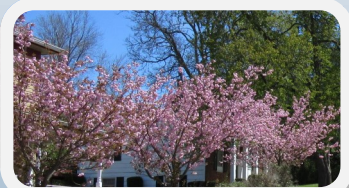
4. South Main Street—East Side

North to South

First Citizens Community Bank: Founded in 1872 as the Ross & Williams Bank, this has grown to replace an entire block of older business buildings including the Mansfield Diner, the A&P, and Johnson's Garage. The present building was erected in 2001.

Williams House: Built in the 1890s by Ellen Bailey Williams, this once elegant house has been used as an agricultural products business office, HQ for the American Legion, a fraternity house and Mark's Brothers Restaurant. It burned on the last day of 2015.

5. College Avenue: Cherry trees planted by donors during the 2007 Sesquicentennial line the street.



6. Mansfield University Campus

South Hall:

The present building is the third of the same name to stand on this location. The original Classical Seminary

Building, built in 1857, stood here. It became the first South Hall and was replaced by a newer building for men's housing. The third South Hall was built in 2007.

Manser Dining Hall stands on the location of the original gymnasium building.

North Hall is now an elegant library. No part of the original 1874 building remains.

Straughn Hall, built in 1929, is one of the most beautiful buildings in the county. It was refurbished in 2015-16. It is named for William Straughn, the first president when the Normal



School became the State Teachers College in 1927.

The Parking area across from Straughn Hall was the location of the second gymnasium.

The Model School, built in 1911 of vanilla brick, provided education to the local elementary age children and practice teaching to the normal school students. It has been renamed **Belknap Hall**.

The Campus Elementary School, built in 1939 as a replacement to the older Model School, was renamed **Retan Center** for the first principal, George Retan.

Elliott Hall, built 1939, was named for Simon B. Elliott. It originally housed arts and home economics. It stands on the edge of campus at the end of East Wellsboro Street.

The Triangle displays the Mansfield University sign. Until the World War Two scrap metal drive, a Civil War cannon was here.



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7. East & West Wellsboro Street

The Methodist Church was built in 1872 and designed by Simon B. Elliott

The Presbyterian Church was built in 1872. Much later, the sanctuary was added in the front.

The St. James Episcopal Church was built in 1868 on land donated by the Morris Family.

Site of the Mansfield Opera House

The vacant lot between the Allen Block and the Presbyterian Church was the location of the Mansfield Opera House. Built in 1888, it burned in 1913. The Howard Davis Garage was built adjacent to the remaining part of the building. It was used as the Borough Hall until razed in 2010.

Intersection

The park behind the Shepard-Bailey Building includes a horse watering trough that once stood on East Wellsboro Street. Believe it or not, three buildings once occupied this small footprint: the Owens Building which later housed Pennsylvania Electric, and two small shops. They were razed in the

1970s.

The Laurel Health Building

stands where the Tioga Valley Grange and the McDowell Building were located. They were demolished in the 1970s. The grange was built in 1913. Ward Austin's Trash and Treasures was in the lower part on the Sassafras Alley side and later was on the main floor as well..

The Black Swan Restaurant

building originally stood as a shop on South Main next to the bank. It was relocated to this location in 1935 when the Mansfield Diner was installed in its place. It was first used as Swain's Music Store and then the NEW X-Trail Restaurant, not to be confused with the original X-Trail on S. Main.

Cooper's Sporting Goods is

located in the old hardware store building. It had been occupied by Kohler, Farrer, Taylor and Cleveland in a succession of partnerships over many years.

Subway: Ralph Evans operated his garage in this building for many years. The Time-Saver was located here. It is now a Subway business and still has gasoline pumps.



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Bethany's Jewelry & Design

5 North Main Street

Fabulous 1890s Festival

Sept. 24 2016

25th Anniversary

Silver Sponsors

Thomas J. Wierbowski, Mayor
Darwina Neal in Memory of the
Neal Family

Keystone North

Mansfield Foundation

First Citizens Community Bank

Tri-County Rural Electric

Law Offices of Lawrence B.
Mansfield

Bronze Sponsors

Anonymous Citizen

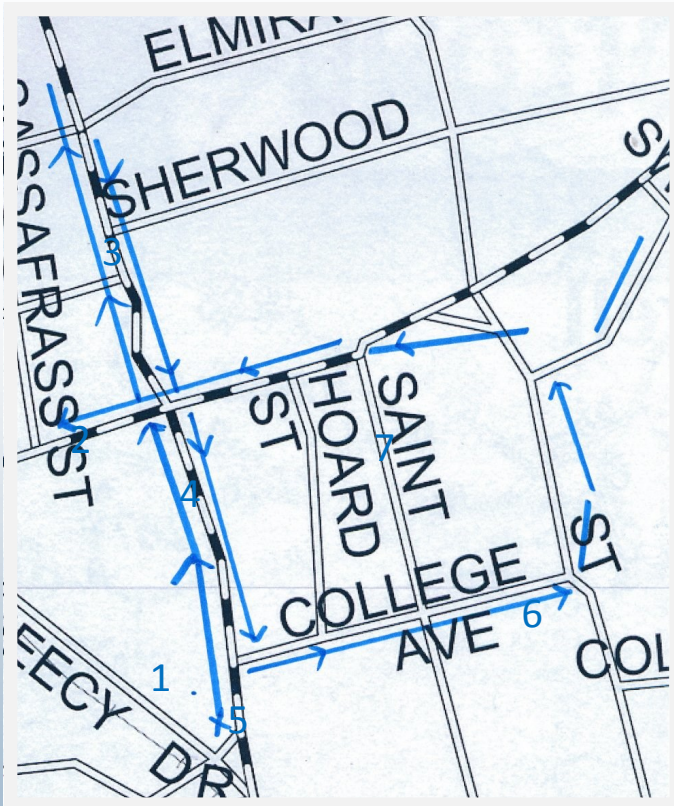
North Forest Realty

Farmers Insurance

Mansfield Embroidery

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