

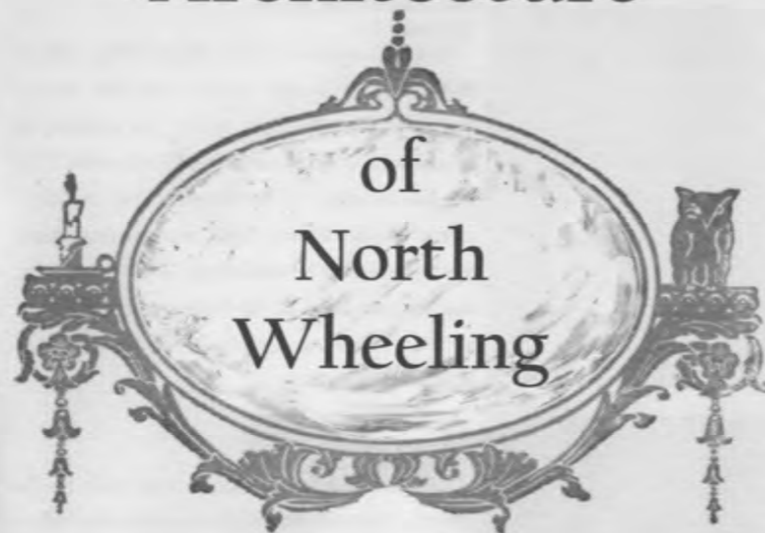


View on Main Street
Wheeling, W. Va.

A WALKING TOUR



The History & Architecture of North Wheeling



DURING MUCH OF THE 19TH CENTURY, Wheeling was the Gateway to the West. Lumbering Conestoga wagons carried people and supplies from the east, coming down Wheeling Hill to 7th Street and finally turning onto Main Street. After rest and resupply, travelers crossed the historic suspension bridge and kept moving west, or boarded steamboats to travel south on the Ohio River. During the same period, North Wheeling became a center of pioneering industries including iron making, shipbuilding, steam engine manufacturing and glass working. Nearly all of those factories are now gone, but the homes of their owners remain.

North Wheeling, or Old Town, was the portal to opportunity, with North Main and Market streets the centers of trade and ultimately the location of fine Victorian homes for many of the innovators and industrialists who helped transform Wheeling before and after the Civil War. The North Wheeling Historic District has Victorian and early 20th century homes with details to delight the informed observer. This guide highlights some of these structures that are easy to appreciate during a single hour walking tour.

An easy way to see Old Town Wheeling is to walk north from the I-70 expressway along the east side of Main Street. Examine the details of the homes on the side you are walking and look across the street at the full facades of these places. As you walk, look at all the houses, not just the ones described here, for each has trim or design features to enjoy. At 6th Street, cross over to the west side of Main Street, walk south, and then back toward the expressway to find restaurants for a drink or meal.



#3 Seybold Apartments
814 Main St

As the only white facade in North Wheeling, the Seybold apartment building stands out for its hue as well as for its classical design. Built in the classical revival style, the large Corinthian pilasters with ornate capitals support a massive cornice with egg and dart trim. A brick parapet sits atop a projecting cornice. All the original design elements are regal but subsequent changes have added mass to a once open corner.



#4 Echhart House
810 Main St

This home is known for its detailed exterior and fine interior. George W. Echhart, Jr., a wealthy banker, built this Queen Anne style residence in 1892. The house has patterned shingles on its mansard roof and terracotta details at the cornice. The building is home to the Echhart House, a gift shop and tea house. Even if you don't want to buy anything, stop by to see the original interior with wonderful staircase, lincrusta, fretwork and inlaid floors.



#5 Sweeney-Winter House
742 Main St

Thomas Sweeney, Wheeling glass baron, bought this land in 1845 and probably built a house soon thereafter. However, the ornate Italianate facade was probably added later in the 1870s. It was most likely added by merchant Phillip Winter, who purchased the house in the late 19th century. The heavily styled hoods over the windows and doors, as well as the cornice, demonstrate the Italianate style.



#1 Sauter Apartments
836-838 Main St

A recessed front porch with delicate tile floor provides a cool place for this building's residents to sit and watch the flow of life. This Eclectic-styled, ca. 1900 apartment building was built for Charles Sauter. The facade is made of lovely ochre-hued bricks with a decorated frieze and cornice, as well as wooden oriel windows on the second level. Few modern commercial buildings are as quietly elegant.



#6 Johnson Apartments
738-740 Main St

This eclectic apartment building built in the 1880s for A. Johnson, has distinctive golden colored bricks that glow in the afternoon sun. There are many lovely architectural features including the metal finials at the roofline, arched windows of the top story, bay windows and spacious porches. The third floor cornice has modillions, egg and dart and Greek key trim. Be sure and look for the filigree-like terracotta molding at eyelevel.



#2 Spragg House
832 Main St

In 1882, S.L.S. Spragg lived here at 832 Main Street. He also operated his medical practice as a physician and surgeon from this residence. At one time, he served as city health officer. The house, with its arches, Palladian window and tower, demonstrates a certain eclectic air — a pleasing mix of Romanesque and Queen Anne architectural styles.



#7 Hedges-Meyer House
734-736 Main St

Spectacular stained glass windows highlight the lower level of this twin townhouse, one of the most beautiful buildings in Victorian Wheeling. Built in the 1890s for Joseph Hedges and H. Meyer, the eclectic houses are distinguished by sandstone arches, corbeled brick and classic triangular pediments over extended oriel windows. Metal finials and a parapet distinguish the roofline of this fabulous building.



View of Main Street, looking North
From the collection of Frank Dinsmore

This walking tour brochure was researched and compiled by:

Victorian Old Town Association
&
Wheeling National Heritage Area





#8 Williams Tenement
730-732 Main St

This tenement house was built in the Italianate style for C.L. Williams. It is a perfect example of middle class housing during the 1880s. The hoods and pediments over the windows and doors are adorned with Eastlake detailing. The continuous cornice stretches across both houses and has matching brackets and details, with only the paint colors delineating the separate sides.



#9 Vigilant Firehouse
648-650 Main St

Marvelous terracotta and corbeled brick surround the doors and windows of this 1891 eclectic-style building. Local resident W.A. Wilson paid \$9,500 for its construction to ensure nearby fire protection for his home. It was a restaurant and has been empty since 2005. The central bell tower was shortened and the bell now sits in front of the new fire station at Main and 8th Streets.



#10 Jonathan Zane Building
604 Main St

Named for a founder of Wheeling, the history of this attractive building is undocumented. This is a beautiful building with a projecting cornice and bold brackets, two-story oriel windows and three levels of ornamental balconies and doors. The details of this house are Italian Renaissance Revival with a colorful flair. There are six, two bedroom units in this 3-story rental structure.



#11 Roberts House
623 Main St

Built circa 1890, the 3-story, Queen Anne duplex has a distinctive brick façade with sandstone details. The house boasts a slate, cross-gabled roof, a stone foundation and a fabulous view of the waterfront. Both sides have identical second-story oriels and charming recessed entryways.



#12
643 Main St

Beautifully incised, green and gold decorated stone lintels are found above each window and door. The same motif in wood occurs above the oriel bay window on the second floor and along the cornice. The house was built circa 1894. The stained glass upper sash in the first floor window dominates that floor and can be viewed from the sidewalk.



#13 Phillips-Robertson House
645 Main St

This house belonged to an affluent owner, Harry L. Robertson, who was a traveling salesman. Built in 1892, the house has a mansard roof with a large Palladian window. The oriel window is rectangular rather than curved, as was more common. This house was built for D. Zane Phillips, a grandson of the founder of the Phillips Foundry, located on the riverbanks behind Main St, between 6th and 7th Streets.



#14 McCusky House
651 Main St

Eclectic is a word that describes the façade of this home. The mansard half-roof is balanced with a Romanesque tower and arched windows with globes above bricks that mimic roofing slate. The rounded window and door opening are unique, as is the Egyptian looking wing above the door. W.O. McCusky was a wealthy businessman (metal and oysters) and married Ella Phillips, who grew up two houses away.



#15 Phillips House
653 Main St

The lintel of a second floor window has the date 1831 carved into it, making this the oldest known house in Wheeling. Arthur Phillips, a pioneer builder of steam engines who had a foundry along the riverbank below the house, constructed this brick structure. The house has a plain façade with the only ornamentation being the carved date and a row of dentils along the cornice.



#16 William Goering House
701 Main St

Built in the Second Empire style, this house has a mansard roof, high style details and three dormers with pediments. A second floor oriole window tops the entrance door. All of the windows are tall with arched hoods. Built by William Goering, treasurer for Central Glass Works, this 1885 home has a small front court enclosed within one of the few remaining iron fences in North Wheeling.



#17 Mozier's Tavern
711 Main St

The front of this house with its curved oriel bay window, elegant stone window lintels, and stylistic cornice suggests a late Victorian construction. The north wall of the house, as seen from the driveway, shows that a new front was added, probably in the 1880s, to the earlier structure. Frederick Mozier owned and operated a tavern in this house during the 1850s.



#18 Morris Apartments
717 Main St

Like 604 Main, this building is dominated by its projecting cornice and topped with decorative metal cutouts of what appear to be pineapples! The top 2 floors on the right have bay windows balanced with small balconies surrounded by metal railings on the left. The narrow, round-topped door at bottom left may have been a servant's entrance if this ca. 1900 building was originally a single-family home.



#19 Mathison House
727 Main St

Vernacular is the architectural term for simple and little-decorated buildings. This one, like 725 next door, seems to date from the 1850s, before an exuberance of trim denoted social status. In 1899, George Mathison lived here with his shoe business partner Seaton Alexander next door. In 1928, the house was used as a funeral home.



#20 Alfred Paull House
729 Main St

This structure was built about 1883, with a Moorish keyhole front window and tall, ornate wooden doors. The right side of the building is capped with a heavily decorated front gable. The left has an oriel window topped with an ornamental frieze. Alfred Paull was an important insurance executive and a loyal Republican. His descendants carry on his business legacy in the form of Paull Associates Real Estate and Insurance Company.



#21
741 Main St

This Italianate style house was built in the 1860s. Several wonderful features include a stained glass window from Sacred Heart Church, the kitchen and great room with tin ceiling and old brick fireplace, and spectacular views of the Ohio River. The present owners purchased the house next door for additional space — including a North Wheeling rarity — a parking garage!



#22 Caldwell House/Waterworks Inn
753 Main St

Built in the 1850s as the Waterworks Inn and named for the nearby city water facility, this building was modified in the 1870s when 753 and adjacent buildings were bought and combined by Alfred Caldwell, an attorney in a prominent pioneering Wheeling family. A hexagonal tower and mansard roof were added about the time of the building's consolidation. It is currently the home of Uncle Pete's, a popular restaurant.



#23 Stifel-Kossuth House
807 Main St

The 800 block was a fashionable area in the 1890s where many of Wheeling's successful businessmen built stately homes. This one was built for George Stifel, who owned one of the largest dry goods stores in Wheeling. Later, famous Wheeling photographer George Kossuth lived here. The mansard roof has curved corners of ogee design, complimented by 3 dormer windows.



#24 Hess House
811 Main St

The Christian Hess house is an outstanding example of French Renaissance Revival style. One of only a few Wheeling buildings of this architectural style, the home looks much as it did when contractor Benjamin Exley built it in 1876. The stone quoins at the corners give the building a monumental look. The wrought iron fencing and window box are reminders of Wheeling's metal working history.



#25 John List House
821 Main St

This house was built by Henry List for his son, John List, in 1893. The Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival house has a Palladian window set within a front gable. The recessed entranceway has stained glass windows commemorating Columbus' arrival in America. The interior boasts a grand inglenook off the foyer and a large stained glass skylight situated over the 3-story staircase.



#26 Jessie List Hazlett House
823 Main St

Like 821 Main Street, this house was built by Henry K. List for his daughter, Jesse, who married Edward Hazlett, a prominent Wheeling banker and investment broker. A combination of Romanesque and Queen Anne styles, the house has both curved and straight sides, and a small hexagonal tower that adds interest. Inside, the staircase has one-of-a-kind fretwork.



#27 Henry List House
827 Main St

Home of Henry K. List, this mansion was built in 1858 with an offset rear wing added 9 years later. List was a wealthy wholesale grocer who might have watched his shipments arrive on the river from the belvedere located on top of the home. He built homes for his children nearby at 821 and 823 Main Street. Spectacular lincrusta, stained glass, inlaid floor and artistic plaster work abounds inside this house.