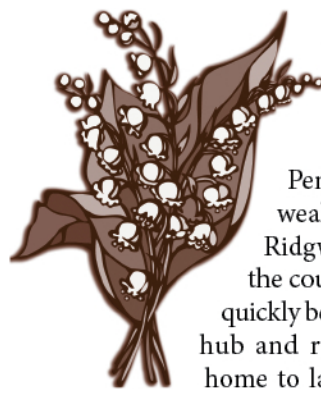


Welcome to the Ridgway "Lily of the Valley" Historic District



Ridgway's "Lily of the Valley" National Historic Register District is an outstanding example of the lumber heritage that abounds in north central Pennsylvania. Founded in 1824 by wealthy Philadelphia Quaker Jacob Ridgway, the town eventually became the county seat of Elk County. Ridgway quickly became an important local political hub and regional manufacturing center, home to large tanneries, factories and the Hyde-Murphy Company, an internationally recognized producer of architectural millwork and art glass.

Primarily settled by pioneers from upstate New York, Ridgway became more ethnically diverse after the Civil War as Swedish, German, Irish and Italian immigrants arrived in the growing community. The success of the lumber industry in the region was directly responsible for the growth of the community during the late 1900's, and this prosperity was a significant factor in shaping the character of the Ridgway Historic District. Many of the properties in the district were built from lumber fortunes.

The Ridgway Historic District is strongly associated with north-central Pennsylvania's most prominent architect of the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century, Henry C. Park (1849-1920). Park moved to Ridgway in 1894 to become the resident architect for the Hyde-Murphy Company, the prolific millwork producer and builder, which had been established ten years earlier. As their architect, Park was at the center of a frenzy of activity throughout this part of Pennsylvania, designing homes, commercial buildings, churches, and theatres. At the time of his death, a local newspaper eulogized him as an architect of "beautiful homes." In addition to the nearly exclusive use of Hyde-Murphy materials, many of Park's beautiful homes are characterized by lavish naturally-finished interior woodwork, elaborate stairways, beamed ceilings, and intricate cabinetry, and exteriors with broad verandas with delicate balustrades. It is likely that nearly all of the pre-1920 Hyde-Murphy built homes reflect the design talent of H. C. Park.

The "Lily of the Valley" National Historic Register District was listed by the National Park Service in 2002, and includes the central business district and a large residential area with more than 700 contributing historic properties. The homes on this tour were built between 1855 and 1917, and represent a wide variety of architectural styles. Many of the homes on this tour were built for well-known pioneers and lumber barons.

We hope that you enjoy this self-guided walking tour. Most of the route lies within a concentrated residential area with an approximate walking time of one hour. Two homes (#22,

George E. Dickinson and #21, William C. Healy) are outside of the Historic District, and are a fifteen-minute walk from the main part of the tour. There are many other fine historic homes throughout the district. Look closely and you will see many other homes that have date plaques near their front door indicating the building date of the home. Also watch for homes graced with a "Famous American Women" painted decoration in their gardens, donated to homeowners by resident and artist Marie Davis. Upon completion of the tour, we invite you to visit our many fine antique and specialty shops in historic downtown Ridgway!

Please remain on the public sidewalks at all times, and respect private property and the privacy of the homeowner.

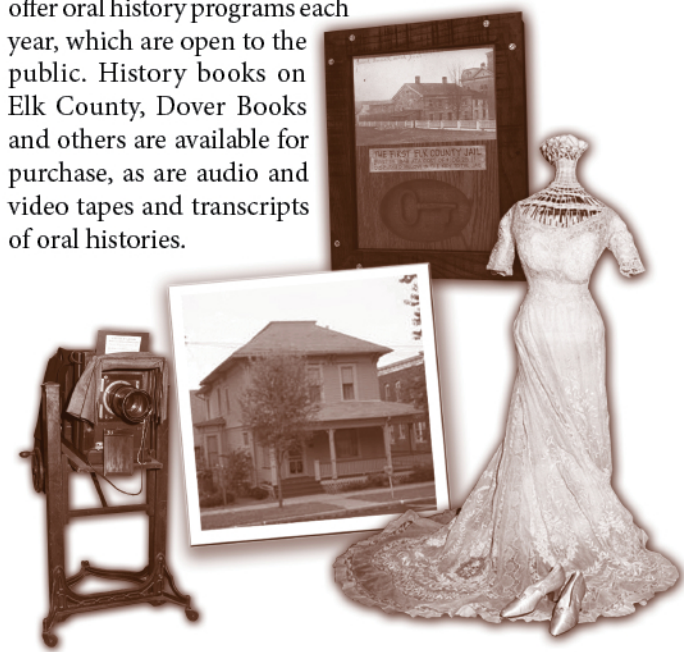
www.ridgwayheritagecouncil.org

Elk County Historical Society

Incorporated in 1964, credit for formal organization of the Society is given to a group of local businessmen from Elk County. Mr. James H. Olay was elected first president. A year later the first issue of The Elk Horn was published. It goes out to our members three times a year focusing on county history of its people, industries, habits, tragedies and celebrations. The current and back issues are for sale to all.

In 1987, we purchased the Center House, which has been restored to the late 1800's period. In 1995, The Robinson Museum was built, which houses exhibits, a lecture room, and a genealogical library. We are one of the first in the state to computerize our collection.

We are blessed with talented volunteers which enables us to offer oral history programs each year, which are open to the public. History books on Elk County, Dover Books and others are available for purchase, as are audio and video tapes and transcripts of oral histories.



109 Center Street, Ridgway, PA 15853
814-776-1032

www.elkcountyhistoricalsociety.org

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

April - mid December, Tuesday - Saturday, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Hyde-Murphy Company

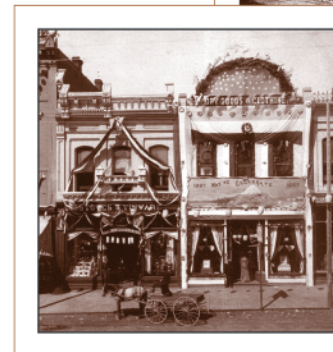
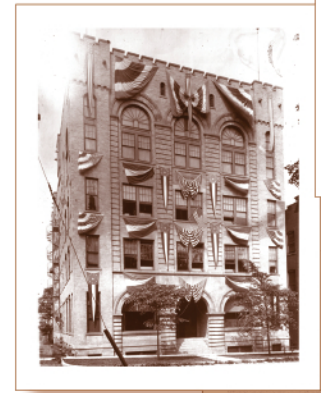
The Hyde-Murphy Company was one of the largest specialty woodworking mills in the Eastern United States, with offices in New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Pittsburgh and Rochester, N.Y. They employed over 100 artisans, craftsmen and woodworkers who helped to create unparalleled architectural woodworking designs.

Hyde-Murphy was incorporated in 1901 following the merger of business associates Walter P. Murphy of Freeport, P.A., owner of a planing mill and Joseph S. and William H. Hyde, owners of a sawmill in Ridgway. A strong friendship developed and the two families lived across the street from each other in stately Romanesque mansions. The Murphy mansion was destroyed by fire in 1956, but the Hyde Mansion still stands as a sentinel at the southeast entrance to Ridgway.

The company constructed many homes, churches, schools and commercial buildings in Ridgway, along with our Y.M.C.A., National Guard Armory, and the Pennsylvania and B&O railroad stations. A sampling of public buildings bearing their signature includes Constitution Hall, the Pentagon, Smithsonian Museum and All Soul's Church in Washington D.C., Biltmore Country Club in N.Y., George Vanderbilt Hotel in Asheville, N.C., Hotel DuPont in Wilmington, D.E., University Club and Kaufman's Department Store in Pittsburgh, P.A.



The Hyde Murphy Policy:
"Let the Selection of the best Materials, the Work of Every Employee, the Service Rendered and the relations with our Customers be of such Quality and Nature that in After Years We May Point with Pride to Each and Every Item of Architectural Woodwork or Doors which we have produced, with the knowledge that such work is a constant tribute to our Integrity and Stability, the Best References we could offer."



The Ridgway Heritage Council

Building Our Future Through Our Past

The Ridgway Heritage Council was formed in 1997 for the purpose of community revitalization utilizing historic preservation as a tool. Our Board of Directors is composed of nineteen dedicated Ridgway residents and business owners. We are committed to the preservation of our heritage that is embodied in our exceptional Victorian homes and commercial buildings. We believe that the conservation and beautification of those special places that tell the story of our unique history will result in a healthy and vibrant community that will attract visitors, residents and businesses.

One of the Ridgway Heritage Council's most popular ventures is the Annual Historic Tour of Homes, a sell-out event. The Council also sponsored the creation of Ridgway's "Lily of the Valley" National Historic Register District. Each year our volunteers have developed numerous downtown flower gardens and established a shade tree replanting program. The Council is best known for our Downtown Historic Facade Program that is administrated in cooperation with the Borough of Ridgway. Nearly \$150,000 in grants has been disbursed since 1998 and almost every building on Main Street has benefited from the program. As a result, Ridgway was honored with three state awards in 2004 (a Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence, a 2004 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Award, and a Pennsylvania Downtown Center Townie Award). Future plans include the creation of a downtown Welcome Center, the installation of historic street lighting, and the redevelopment of "White Elephant" commercial buildings.

The Ridgway Heritage Council is proud to be part of a team effort that is successfully reinvigorating Ridgway and ensuring its success into the 21st century. We wish to acknowledge and thank our "partners in progress":

- Borough of Ridgway
- County of Elk
- Elk County Historical Society
- North Central Regional Planning and Development
- Ridgway-Elk County Chamber of Commerce
- Ridgway Industrial Development Corporation
- Ridgway Area School District
- Ridgway Township
- Stackpole-Hall Foundation

Other Special Acknowledgements

- Walking Tour Brochure Committee
- Helen Hughes, assistance with historical research
- Les Shull, photography
- Printing Plus, graphic design and printing
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- "Friends of the Ridgway Heritage Council" and "Class Challenge" participants
- Our gracious homeowners who volunteered their homes for this tour

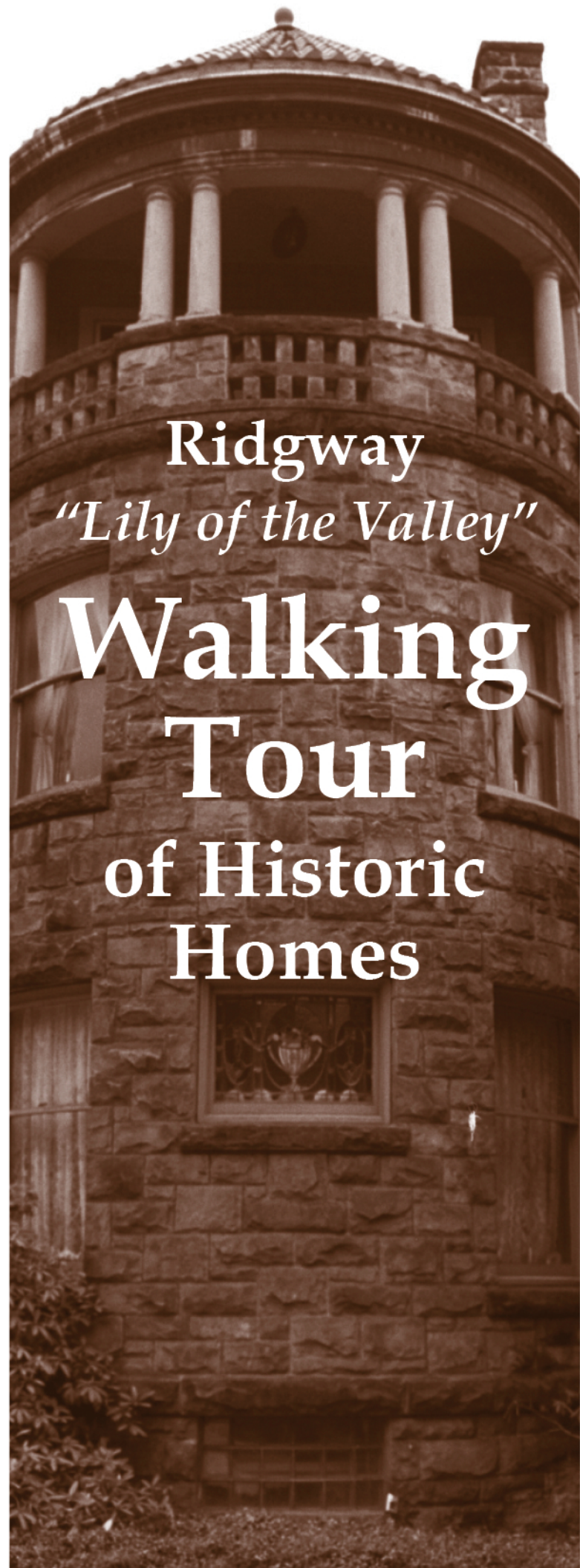
A variety of sources from the Elk County Historical Society and the Elk County Courthouse were used for researching historical information for this brochure.

The Ridgway Heritage Council is a 501(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax-deductible. PO Box 285, Ridgway, PA 15853

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"This map was made possible in part by a Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau Tourism Marketing Grant."



Ridgway "Lily of the Valley" Walking Tour of Historic Homes



1. Mrs. William H. Hyde Residence
2. Hon. John G. Whitmore Residence
3. Harry R. Hyde Residence
4. Madison S. Kline Residence
5. David Robertson Home
6. Harry Thayer Residence
7. Abraham Lincoln Bell Residence
8. Frank Clawson Residence
9. William Moore Residence
10. Charles A. Kline Residence
11. Jackson S. Schultz Residence
12. Jerome Powell Residence

13. Edgar Powell Residence
14. Col. Fred Schoening Residence
15. Burr Cartwright Residence
16. Byron F. Ely Residence
17. Perry R. Smith Residence
18. Beverly P. Mercer Residence
19. Elder Campbell Residence
20. George Dixon Residence
21. Homer B. Norton Residence
22. William C. Healy Residence
23. George E. Dickinson Residence



Mrs. William H. Hyde Residence

344 Main Street ~ Date: 1907 ~ Style: Romanesque

1 This massive Richardsonian Romanesque mansion was built a few years after William H. Hyde's death, for his wife Elizabeth. William Hyde, a Pennsylvania State Senator, was the son of early pioneer and lumber baron Joseph S. Hyde. William was heavily involved in managing the family businesses. The Hyde family made their fortune in several early industries. Most important were the cutting of rough timber and the production of fine woodwork at Hyde-Murphy and Company, located in Ridgway. The fine oak, cherry, curly birch, and maple woodwork throughout the home is a testament to the quality of woodwork their company produced. Massive fireplaces with mosaic tile surrounds great wooden archways tethered by fluted pilasters, and heavy paneled wainscoting envelop both the public and private family rooms. The home also features the town's largest leaded and beveled window soaring above the grand staircase. A ballroom with Juliet balcony graciously finishes the third floor of the mansion.



Hon. John G. Whitmore Residence

12 East Avenue ~ Date: 1898 ~ Style: Queen Anne

2 Built in 1898 by Judge John G. Whitmore and his wife Laura, this late Queen Anne Victorian and carriage house is one of Ridgway's most prized historic residences. John Whitmore was a well-known local attorney who represented the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He was appointed to the bench of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in 1930. The home features massive woodwork throughout. It is detailed with carved lion heads, curling acanthus leaves, and cross panels finished with French styled cartouches. The basement of the home features a gentlemen's game room complete with wood paneled walls and original gaslights. In the carriage house, typical Victorian ingenuity is demonstrated by the original carriage lift used to hoist a buggy to the second floor in order to make ample room for the horses.



Harry R. Hyde Residence

402 East Main Street ~ Date: 1896 ~ Style: Queen Anne

3 Another of the Hyde family mansions, this Queen Anne Victorian was built for Harry R. Hyde, a grandson of the wealthy lumberman Joseph S. Hyde. James Gallagher, one of Ridgway's earliest pioneers, built a log cabin near this site in 1825. Ridgway's first school was held in the Gallagher's log home. The current home was built in 1896, and dramatic turn of the 19th century interior renovation turned double parlors into one massive English style great hall, complete with oversized fireplace and built-in bookcases. The front hall features a Moorish style plaster fireplace and oak paneled staircase. The oak paneled dining room with elaborate parquet floor is illuminated by its original gas chandelier. Take note of Ridgway's most beautifully enclosed porch, surrounded by tulip formed beveled and leaded art glass windows.



Edgar Powell Residence

324 South Street ~ Date: 1903 ~ Style: Eclectic

13 This late Victorian Eclectic style mansion was built in 1903 by Edgar Powell, son of neighboring Jerome Powell. Edgar was born in 1865, and attended Bucknell College in Lewisburg. Mr. Powell continued to pursue his family interests after attending Bucknell College. He married Ella Grant, only daughter of early Elk County industrialist O.B. Grant. Following in his father Jerome's footsteps, Edgar served as the Mayor of Ridgway for three years. Edgar and his brother Robert left Ridgway for California around 1917, where they lost much of their family fortune. This buff brick mansion is the only home in town to feature a dramatically curved staircase. Adjoining the front hall through fluted columns is a lovely reception room with an intricately carved fireplace. The dining room features lovely built-in china cabinets and a geometric beamed ceiling.



Col. Fred Schoening Residence

314 South Street ~ Date: 1875 ~ Style: French Second Empire

14 Built in 1875 for Col. Fred and Matilda Schoening, another daughter of early pioneer Judge Isaac Horton. The Colonel's father Gerhard was the pioneer of St. Marys. The Colonel organized Company H, Sixteenth Regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard, which he commanded for ten years. He was later engaged in the music business, dealing in pianos and organs. This French Second Empire Victorian with mansard roof was dramatically updated to the fashionable Colonial Revival style. These updates, at the end of the 19th century, included the addition of a columned and turreted front porch and the addition of art glass windows. This home was later occupied by several prominent citizens, including the families of George Childs and Flavius Smith.



Burr Cartwright Residence

244 Center Street ~ Date: 1900 ~ Style: Eclectic

15 This eclectic, late Victorian baronial mansion was built in 1900 by one of Pennsylvania's wealthiest lumbermen Burr Cartwright. Burr was an important personality in the railroad-logging era. A native of Buffalo, N.Y., he owned the largest lumber operation in the Toby Valley and his empire also included coal, brick and railroad operations. The Panic of 1893 left him bankrupt, and the Hall and Kaul families obtained control of his operations. After working for those families for a period of time, he returned to Buffalo where he became a successful promoter of gold mines. The three storied home features some of the finest cherry, maple and oak woodwork in town. Dramatic reception rooms are fitted with carved griffons, neoclassic columns, heavy built in cabinets and deep wood coffered ceilings. The third floor features the largest, most opulent ballroom in town retaining its original gas chandelier.



Madison S. Kline Residence

329 Center Street ~ Date: 1905 ~ Style: Colonial Revival

4 The Ridgway Public Library was originally built as a residence for Madison S. Kline, a local banker and sales manager for Russell Car and Snow Plow Company. Bankrupted in 1910, he was forced to sell the home to the Hall family, one of the most prominent families in Elk County. J.K.P. Hall served two terms in the U.S. Congress, and was a State Senator from 1903 to 1912, and was married to Kate Hyde, the daughter of lumber magnate Joseph S. Hyde. Their son James Lyle Gillis Hall became President of the Stackpole Carbon Company, and founded the Stackpole-Hall Foundation. This Colonial Revival mansion has been the home of the Ridgway Public Library since 1922. The home is flanked on two sides by enormous ionic columns supporting its third floor ballroom. The mansion also features a spacious reception hall with typical revival style painted woodwork.



David Robertson Home

330 Center Street ~ Date: 1891 ~ Style: Transitional Queen Ann Victorian

5 Built in 1891. Occupied by David and his family on November 5, 1891. Home is four stories and occupies 7,600 square feet with 17 rooms and 9 fireplaces all framed with American Encaustic Tile Company of Zanesville, Ohio tiles. The home is a fine example of the Hyde-Murphy Company and their amazing craftsmen in exquisite architectural millwork. The beads on the stairway posts and throughout the house are individual and were applied using tape and a very fine nail gun. Main Entry Area - Terra Cotta Fireplace with a face in the back - Rose Marble Fireplace Mantle above and the Scottish/Galic word "Inglialabd" above the fireplace means "Fair Place".



Harry Thayer Residence

320 Center Street ~ Date: 1906 ~ Style: Eclectic

6 This shingle style late Victorian was built for Harry Thayer, grandson of early Ridgway settler David Thayer, one of the Ridgway's earliest pioneers in 1835. He later opened a hotel called the Exchange, (later renamed the Clarion House) on the edge of the Clarion River. Harry managed the Laurel Mill lumber operation for his father Henry. In 1942, Walter P. Murphy from the Hyde-Murphy Company purchased the home for his two daughters Kathryn and Elizabeth. The home is a perfect example of the larger grand homes built at the turn of the 19th century that replaced the earlier clapboard homes lining Center Street. The carriage house, however, remains as part of the first homestead built in 1861 by Justus C. Chapin, one of the first District Attorneys in Elk County.



Byron F. Ely Residence

200 Center Street ~ Date: 1888 ~ Style: Queen Anne

16 Built in 1888 for prominent lumberman and businessman Byron F. Ely and his wife Helen, this Queen Anne Victorian is one of Center Street's early grand homes. Mr. Ely was one of Ridgway's earliest pioneers, arriving in 1836 from Allegheny County, N.Y. at the age of sixteen, with his father Lafayette. He went into partnership with David S. Luther, and pursued several successful lumbering ventures, the last one being on Elk Creek just outside of Ridgway, at the site later occupied by the Ridgway Color and Chemical Company, now currently redeveloped as a PADOT facility. He died within a few months of building his new home. The house features original oak, chestnut and maple woodwork with a combination of stick/ball and colonial revival mantles and moldings. The grand Eastlake style staircase is illuminated by three beveled and leaded art glass windows.



Perry R. Smith Residence

136 Center Street ~ Date: 1896 ~ Style: Eclectic

17 This late Victorian was built for Perry R. Smith and his wife Lillian. Perry moved to Ridgway from Liberty, N.Y. in 1871 where he began his career in tanning as an employee of the Grant & Horton Tannery. He eventually started a partnership with his brothers Flavius and Charles, building a tannery at Arroyo which they operated until 1893. He later became the Vice President of the Elk Tanning Company. In 1898 the three brothers founded the Smith Brothers Department Store, and moved into the Grand Central building on Main Street in 1907. The operation eventually became one of the largest department store chains in Western Pennsylvania, until its demise in 1958. A genial character, Perry was a popular figure in social circles. Several of the public rooms feature elegant Hyde-Murphy and Co. maple, cherry and oak woodwork along with decorative plastered ceilings. This mansion is one of several high society homes crowned by a sumptuous ballroom.



Beverly P. Mercer Residence

122 Center Street ~ Date: 1896 ~ Style: Vernacular

18 Originally built in 1896 for B.P. Mercer, a successful town merchant who operated a meat market on Main Street with his brother Wilbur, this buff brick Victorian with carriage house was dramatically renovated in 1914 by its second owner, Madison J. Beach. Madison Beach came to Ridgway in 1899 in order to become the President of the Elk Tanning Company, one of the largest corporations in Pennsylvania. Mr. Beach added a fashionable cut stone porch and updated the dining room by expanding its walls and adding oak wainscoting and a beamed ceiling. This home also features an original carved chestnut staircase and several art glass windows. In 1920 noise in the street from the growing popularity of automobiles caused the Beach Family to relocate to fashionable 326 South Street.



Abraham Lincoln Bell Residence

348 South Street ~ Date: 1904 ~ Style: Georgian Colonial Revival

7 Built in 1904 by Abraham Lincoln Bell, who was a schoolteacher in Jefferson County until he moved to Ridgway in 1887 under the employ of J.H. McEwen Manufacturing Company, predecessor of the Ridgway Dynamo and Engine Company. He began as a boilermaker and eventually became the company's President and General Manager. He was the President of the Ridgway School Board for fifteen years, and was instrumental in establishing the Ridgway Y.M.C.A. This grand home was built in Georgian Colonial Revival style. The newly restored half round porch is the only one of its kind in town. The front staircase is graced with an oversized landing that is outfitted with a fireplace and a matching pair of stained glass windows. Below the staircase is a sunken library paneled in oak with a dramatic fireplace and built in window seats.



Frank Clawson Residence

522 Hyde Avenue ~ Date: 1907 ~ Style: Georgian Revival

8 This massive Georgian Colonial Revival home and its carriage house were built in 1907 by Frederick Clawson, who made his fortune furnishing tanneries with the chemicals required for the processing of animal hides. He founded the Clawson Chemical Company in Hallton in 1905. Experiencing financial difficulties, he sold the plant in 1927 to Richard Cartwright who continued the operation until its final demise in 1948. The home retains its original double set of leaded and beveled front doors that greet visitors as they arrive into a grand central hall. The hall is lit on the opposite end by a large leaded and beveled window that graces the landing of the main staircase. Without a doubt, the paneled and beamed living room, stretching the entire depth of the house, was meant for large social gatherings.



William Moore Residence

524 Hyde Avenue ~ Date: 1909 ~ Style: Eclectic

9 Built in 1909 by William Moore as a wedding present for his son Taylor Moore and his wife Penelope, this shingle style colonial revival mansion features grand reception rooms outfitted with rich oak and mahogany woodwork. Built in bookcases and china cabinets add to the beauty of the fireplaces in the dining room and formal parlor on the first floor. There is also a lovely library complete with paneled walls and beamed ceilings that are lit by a myriad of beveled and leaded windows. The three story octagonal tower rises above Hyde Avenue, giving wonderful views of nearby Hall's Dam and its historic neighborhood.



Elder Campbell Residence

121 Center Street ~ Date: 1886 ~ Style: Queen Anne/Eastlake

19 Narrowly saved from destruction, this lovely Queen Anne Victorian was first built as a simple clapboard home with barn. The property was the site of a planing mill in the 1870's that was later purchased by Joseph S. Hyde, who removed all the equipment and sold the property to William H. Osterhaut. The home was built for Elder Campbell, co-owner of the Eagle Valley Store, established by Osterhaut in 1871. Campbell also had a sawmill in the Whistletown area, cutting timber for the Elk Tanning Company. Campbell later lumbered at Loleta until he moved to Virginia in 1906. Dramatic renovation of the home added several carved fireplace mantels, art glass windows and parquet floors. Judge's paneling along with stick and ball fretwork can be seen on the first floor, while original grained molding remains throughout the second. Other prominent owners included George W. Childs and Flavius C. Smith.



George Dixon Residence

118 Center Street ~ Date: 1888 ~ Style: Shingle

20 This cottage style Victorian home and barn were built in 1888 for George Dixon, a local businessman and educator. Dixon sprang from Scottish ancestry who arrived in the United States in 1719. George was a graduate of Rutgers University in New Jersey, and became a well-known educator and lecturer. He later studied law under George A. Rathbun, and was admitted to the Bar in 1878, and served four terms as a Pennsylvania Assemblyman. The home features a wonderful cherry staircase and intricate parquet flooring in the main hall. Notice the enclosed sleeping porch atop the turret. The home retains its original carriage stone at which horse drawn buggies would leave their visitors at the front stoop.



Homer B. Norton Residence

114 Center Street ~ Date: 1916 ~ Style: Late Victorian/Mission

21 This late Victorian/Mission style house circa 1916 is the dramatic renovation of an 1874 clapboard Italianate home similar to its neighbor. Norton was a prominent Ridgway engineer who designed the H.B. Norton dam as the main water supply for the town, after a series of typhoid epidemics. Criticized at first due to water quality problems, his foresight proved to be correct. H.B. Norton built his new home around an older 1874 structure, and designed it with one foot in the past using typical carved Victorian woodwork in the parlor, while incorporating the new straight lined Arts and Crafts style in other rooms. The third floor is one of Ridgway's architectural wonders. The entire weight of the roof is cantilevered to the exterior walls making one large room with no visible supporting structures.



Charles A. Kline Residence

526 Hyde Avenue ~ Date: 1907 ~ Style: Tudor Revival

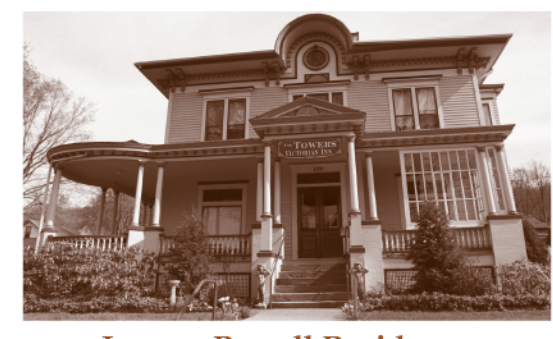
10 Ridgway's finest example of an English Tudor Style Victorian mansion, it was designed by renowned Hyde-Murphy architect H.C. Park for Charles Kline and his wife Margaret. Born in Crenshaw in 1875, Charles came to Ridgway for a minor job with the Hyde-Murphy Company. He was such a good worker that he was eventually entrusted with a large share of its management. He was nearly finished with the building of his fine new home in 1907, which he expected to move into at Christmas, when he unexpectedly died in November from appendicitis. The home was owned for some time by the Elliott Company. The mansion features an incredible double set of leaded and beveled glass entrance doors that lead into a dark oak central hall with large formal rooms opening symmetrically on either side. The dining room boasts one of Ridgway's finest built-in servers.



Jackson S. Schultz Residence

344 South Street ~ Date: 1917 ~ Style: American Foursquare

11 Built in 1917 for Jackson Schultz, this classic American Foursquare mansion sits imposingly atop the vista of Ridgway's historic East Avenue. Schultz lived in Ridgway for 45 years and was the Vice-President of the Elk Tanning Company. At its peak, the Elk Tanning Company owned forty-five tanneries with a work force of 6,000 men and main offices located in the Knights of Columbus Building in Ridgway. They specialized in shoe leather that was marketed through the United States and Europe. The massive buff brick and stone home replaced an earlier frame home built in 1869 for Horace Little, a well-known local surveyor. The residence features many large formal rooms graced with Hyde-Murphy and Co. oak woodwork. Typical of late Victorian house building, this home is straight forward in design, yet elegant, leaving the fussiness of the previous century behind.



Jerome Powell Residence

330 South Street ~ Date: 1865 ~ Style: Italian Villa

12 Proudly placed atop a succession of tree-lined terraces, the Jerome Powell mansion, circa 1865, is one of Ridgway's most impressive lumber baron homes. Italianate Villa in style, this home was dramatically updated inside and out during the 1890's. Soaring first floor ceilings are crowned with oak and cherry beams finished with egg and dart moldings. The grand staircase is flanked with massive oak ionic columns. The dining room is paneled with cherry woodwork and has intricate parquet floors. The son of a blacksmith, Mr. Powell came to Ridgway in 1850 to establish the Elk County Advocate newspaper, now the Ridgway Record. He was consequently involved in many successful business ventures but his primary fortune was amassed through businesses related to lumber, mercantile and real estate. Jerome Powell shared this home with his wife Amanda Horton Powell, daughter of early Elk County pioneer Judge Isaac Horton.



William C. Healy Residence

214 Montmorenci Road ~ Date: 1888 ~ Style: Queen Anne/Stick

22 This three-story, Queen Anne/Stick style house was built for William Healy in 1888. Mr. Healy came to Ridgway in 1850 to work for Dickinson and Company, but soon purchased the Laurel Mill lumber operation, which he owned until 1861, living at Laurel Mill during this time. He married Elizabeth Dill, daughter of early pioneer Caleb Dill. In 1888, he built this fine residence toward the end of his life, despite his failing health. The original cherry woodwork remains completely intact. The dining room is paneled with spoon carved wainscoting and the grand staircase is a prime example of Eastlake architecture. Rather than turned spindles, the cherry rail has cut away supports with insets of bird's eye maple. The newel post also retains the original figural gaslight with acid etched globe. Another unusual feature of the house is the original shutters that close by crank from inside the house.



George E. Dickinson Residence

106 West Main Street ~ Date: 1855 ~ Style: Greek Revival

23 Ridgway's only example of Greek Revival architecture that remains wholly intact was built for early lumberman and pioneer George Dickinson and his wife Albina, who moved to Ridgway in 1832. The Dickinson family immigrated to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630. The main portion of the house is flanked by towering, corner pilasters that are used architecturally in order to support the bold, Greek temple inspired, roofline. The sidelights that surround the front door give a glimpse of the original cherry Windsor spindle staircase that ascends gracefully from the wide plank floors of the front hall. The front "L" portico, behind the square columned portico, was originally the kitchen and wood room. To George Dickinson, this house represented the dream of an "Old Connecticut Yankee" - to tame the wilderness of Northwestern Pennsylvania and create a homestead for his branch of the Dickinson family tree.

