

# ST. MARYS

## HISTORIC DISTRICT



## A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR



**ELK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**



# WELCOME!

**S**t. Marys has always been known for faith and fortitude. When the trees ran out, people could have run out but did not. The utilization of other



natural resources and local labor led to economic prosperity that is reflected in the striking architecture of the community. Hard work and innovation generated wealth in St. Marys that still reflects regional distinction. Fine examples of style and local interpretations of pattern abound on the streets of St. Marys. Walk and wonder. You are invited to sample our community's artistry of architects and builders both on this brief stroll and further afield.



## 1 The Weis Buildings

**(A)** George E. Weis Residence  
44 South St. Marys Street |  
1845

**(B)** Albert Weis Residence  
50 South St. Marys Street |  
1865

George E Weis built both of these homes. He was a stonemason and used local sandstone. The Georgian-style buildings are made of irregular-sized stones. (A) is the oldest building in Elk County, originally a store.

Building (B) was the Albert Weis residence. He operated a livery and harness shop here.



## 2 Memorial Bell Tower

Edward Meyer Boulevard | 1935

The 65 foot St. Marys Bell tower was built in 1935 after the 1897 tower burned. The bell was elevated gradually as construction on the walls progressed using railroad ties borrowed from the nearby Shawmut Railroad Company.



## 3 Boys & Girls Club of St. Marys

25 North Michael Street  
Gymnasium (right) |  
1952, New Club (left)  
| 1978



New York City lawyer, William Hall, President of the National Boys Club founded the St. Marys Boys Club in 1923. Hall was born in St. Marys. The St. Marys club was the smallest in the country. In 1983, the club became co-educational, several years before the national organization.

## 4 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Historical Marker Veterans Eternal Flame Monument

North End of Diamond | 1967

Founded as a religious community, St. Marys became the

Carbon Center of the World.

Today it has become a thriving, diverse, modern city.



The Eternal Flame Monument honors veterans of St. Marys. There had been a band stand on this site that had the gas regulator on the ground floor.



## 5 John E. Weidenboerner Residence

128 North Michael Street | 1881

The John E. Weidenboerner house was built after the Great Fire of 1880. It was built of the more fire-resistant brick rather than wood. The building is considered one of the finest regional examples of the Italianate Style of architecture.



## 6 George Wolfe Residence

139 North Michael Street | 1909

This house was built by George Wolfe and later owned by Denis J. Driscoll, an educator and U.S. Congressman. The home originally had a balcony across the front of the second story from which political speeches were given. The Greek Revival-style house had Corinthian columns supporting a roof belvedere gallery.



## 7 Harry Stackpole First Residence

151 North Michael Street | 1906

This was the first home of "Harry" Stackpole who founded the Stackpole Carbon Company, the largest industry in St. Marys for many years. The 3-story Colonial Revival residential building features stone construction with a gabled roof. It was built by the Hyde-Murphy Company. The house was built as a wedding present from the bride's parents.



## 8 Sebastian Wimmer Residence

119 Maurus Street | 1895

Sebastian Wimmer's house is Second Empire style. This famous engineer, built bridges and railroads in the Civil War, Mexico and around the country. He was educated in Germany.

Sebastian Wimmer was the nephew of St. Vincent Abbot Boniface Wimmer who sent the first Benedictine nuns and priests to the colony.



## 9 George Fehrenbach Residence

175 Maurus Street | 1940



This home was built by Vinny Sherry in 1940 for George Fehrenbach, President of Speer Carbon and St. Marys mayor. The house was

expanded in 1967. The Colonial Revival Style house has bay windows on the first floor, matching gable end chimneys and a small sunporch on the side.

## 10 William Reuscher Residence

333 Maurus Street | 1905

The William Reuscher house was built in 1905. The Tudor-style house has an exterior of multi-colored stones with stuccoed, half-timbered upper floors and truncated hipped roof. Later, it was the home of Ben Reuscher an important industrialist and civic leader. He founded Keystone Carbon Company an important powdered metal pioneer.





## 11 St. Marys Church

315 Church Street | 1854

When the Benedictine priests arrived in St. Marys, they immediately saw the need for a new church building. Father Heindl was the spiritual advisor and architects were Ignatius Garner and Jacob Schaut. The church was built by volunteers using local sandstone, lumber and lime. In 1910, the front vestibule was added. The steeple is 115 feet high.



## 12 Vincent (Vinny) J. Sherry Residence

452 Church Street | 1936

Vinny Sherry was an accomplished local housing contractor in St. Marys. He developed the Sherry Hill section of town. The exterior of his home features bevel wood siding, a shingle roof, and custom-made circle top front entry door. The inverted V-shaped entrance extension is a trademark of Vinny Sherry's style.



## 13 St. Joseph's Benedictine Convent

Maurus and Church Streets

The St. Joseph's Benedictine Convent built in 1852 was razed in 2021. Several elements remain. The original chapel sits behind the St. Marys Church. The Scholastica Shrine overlooks Sister's Pond in the nuns' cemetery. The Walburga Shrine is below the church and the Kunigunda Shrine is behind a house on Maurus Street on the nun's path to the Hospital.



## 14 St. Marys Monastery

144 Church Street | 1890

The St. Marys Monastery serves as the priory for the priests of both St. Marys and Sacred Heart parishes. It replaced the original monastery which is today the central portion of the Hospital. Brick for this building was made in St. Marys at the Quinn Brickyard.



## 15 George F. Hauber Residence

517 Center Street | 1901

George Hauber owned Hauber Insurance & Real Estate. His 1901

house was a wedding gift for his bride. This Eastlake Shingle style house has original turned balustrade posts and trim with a two-stall carriage house. The hipped roof has projecting gables. An elevator, installed in the 1940s is still functioning.

## 16 William G. Bauer Residence

348 Center Street | 1903

This was the home of St. Marys mayor, William Bauer, an educator, publisher and St. Marys Brick Company owner. The exterior consists of different colored and sized creek stones and finished with cedar shingles.

A double window dormer is on the third floor. The third floor served as a ballroom which features a double window dormer.



## 17 Sacred Heart Church

337 Center Street | 1907

The Sunbury & Erie Railroad was completed to St. Marys in 1863. Since German was spoken at St. Marys Church these Irish railroad families established Sacred Heart Church. This Gothic-style church designed by William P. Ginther is built of sandstone mined on Silver Creek. The steeple is 163 feet high.



## 18 Charles Luhr Residence

326 Center Street | 1895

This Victorian-style house was the residence of Charles Luhr. A porte-cochere for horse and buggy visitors accesses a large greeting foyer. A.C Luhr's grandson, pilot Jordan Luhr, was the first St. Marys casualty of World War II. His image was used on a poster to support the war effort.

## 19 Frank A. Kaul Residence

188 Center Street | 1920

The Georgian Revival style house was built by Frank Kaul, the son of Andrew Kaul.

The house included a 3rd floor ballroom. Brewery Run flows through the basement to Elk Creek. Kaul and his sisters founded the Andrew Kaul Memorial Hospital. The Kaul family were important civic leaders.





## 20 Francis Hauber Residence

169 Center Street | 1875

Francis Hauber was a banker and attorney. The Dutch Colonial Revival-style house has a gambrel roof with a third-story Palladian window and dormer. It has a wraparound porch plus sunroom. The house has a three-bay addition and the exterior is stucco.



## 21 George E. Simons Residence

168 Center Street  
| *Early 1900s*

George E. Simons residence is a three-story shingle-style

home with the first story of Hummelstown brownstone construction and the upper stories of wood-clad shingles. The gabled roof has three gabled dormers with bay windows on the outer bays. The home was built by a local contractor Thomas Valentine.

## 22 Charles A. Lion Residence

152 Center Street | 1886

Charles Lion was a butcher and Erie Avenue meat market owner. In 1912, William Kaul remodeled the house into a Tudor Revival-style design with multiple gables and half timbering. The horse and buggy carriage house was converted into an automobile garage.





## 23 Dr. Eben J. Russ Residence

138 Center Street | 1906

Dr. Eben J. Russ built this imposing house

in the Dutch Colonial Revival-style. Russ was a medical doctor, partner in the Coryrell and Russ Department Store and partner in the Kaul and Russ Coal Company. Notable within this home is a stained-glass window on the front stair landing which was imported from Europe.

## 24 Apollo Theatre

19 North Michael Street | 1928

The Apollo Theatre was built in 1928 by the Hyde-Murphy Company of Ridgway. It has gone under the names:

Old Diamond Movie Theater, Harris Theater, St. Marys Concert Theater, Diamond Theater and Apollo Theatre. Its bright yellow and blue color scheme makes a bold statement on the St. Marys Diamond.



## 25 H.M. Silman Building

14 Erie Avenue | 1902

### Arcade Hotel and Restaurant/ McGovern Tavern

10 Erie Avenue | 1908

(A) is Silman's Department Store, once the largest department store in Elk County. The brownstone building includes a Romanesque arch with a stained glass window.



(B) The Arcade Hotel and Restaurant opened in 1908 after James McGovern, owner and operator razed the previous Arcade Saloon. McGovern had purchased the site from Joseph Windfelder, former mayor and brewer. Windfelder had rebuilt when the original saloon was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1880.

## 28 Harry Stackpole, Second Residence

728 Maurus Street |  
1928, 1939

Harry Stackpole's second residence was built in 1928 by Hyde-Murphy Company. An addition doubled its size in 1939. After Stackpole died, the home was used as the residence for the Benedictine nuns who were the nurses in charge of the hospital.



## 29 Richard Fryling Residence

741 Maurus Street |  
1917

Richard Fryling was the original owner of this home. The longest owner was Harry Conrad. He served as a president of Stackpole Carbon Company. The Tudor style house has an interesting rounded front door in the inverted V extended entrance.



## 30 Hall Stackpole Residence

715 Maurus Street | 1930

This large, multi-gabled house was the home of Hall Stackpole. He was the son of Harry Stackpole, founder of Stackpole Carbon Company. Hall served as a president of the company. The red brick building features three chimneys. It has a large central living room with cathedral ceiling.



# OTHER HISTORICAL SITES



## St. Marys Country Club

535 South Michael Street

The St. Marys Country Club was built in 1966 by Raymond Viner Hall and influenced by architect Frank Lloyd Wright.



## Decker's Chapel

Decker Chapel Road

Decker's Chapel was built in 1856. It is one of the smallest churches in America and on the Register of Historic Places.



## St. Marys Library

127 Center Street

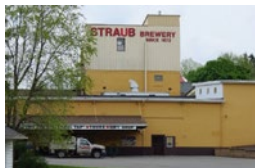
The St. Marys Library was built in 1964 by Raymond Viner Hall in the Modern Style.



## St. Marys Post Office

201 Chestnut Street

The St. Marys Post Office was built in 1941. Its architecture is typical of federal buildings of the period.



## Straub Brewery

303 Sorg Street

Straub Brewery is a family owned and run business founded in 1872. They feature an Eternal Tap and Tap Room.



## City Hall

11 Lafayette Street

St. Marys City Hall was originally a bank. It is built in the Modern International style.



## Boulevard Clock

The Boulevard Clock was erected in 2015 by the St. Marys Rotary Club.



## Walk Further

Explore St. Marys. Our town has more unique, beautiful, historic and interesting architecture. Walk around, find more, discover St. Marys.

## FURTHER AFIELD



### **26** Monastery Building | 1871 Andrew Kaul Memorial Hospital | 1920

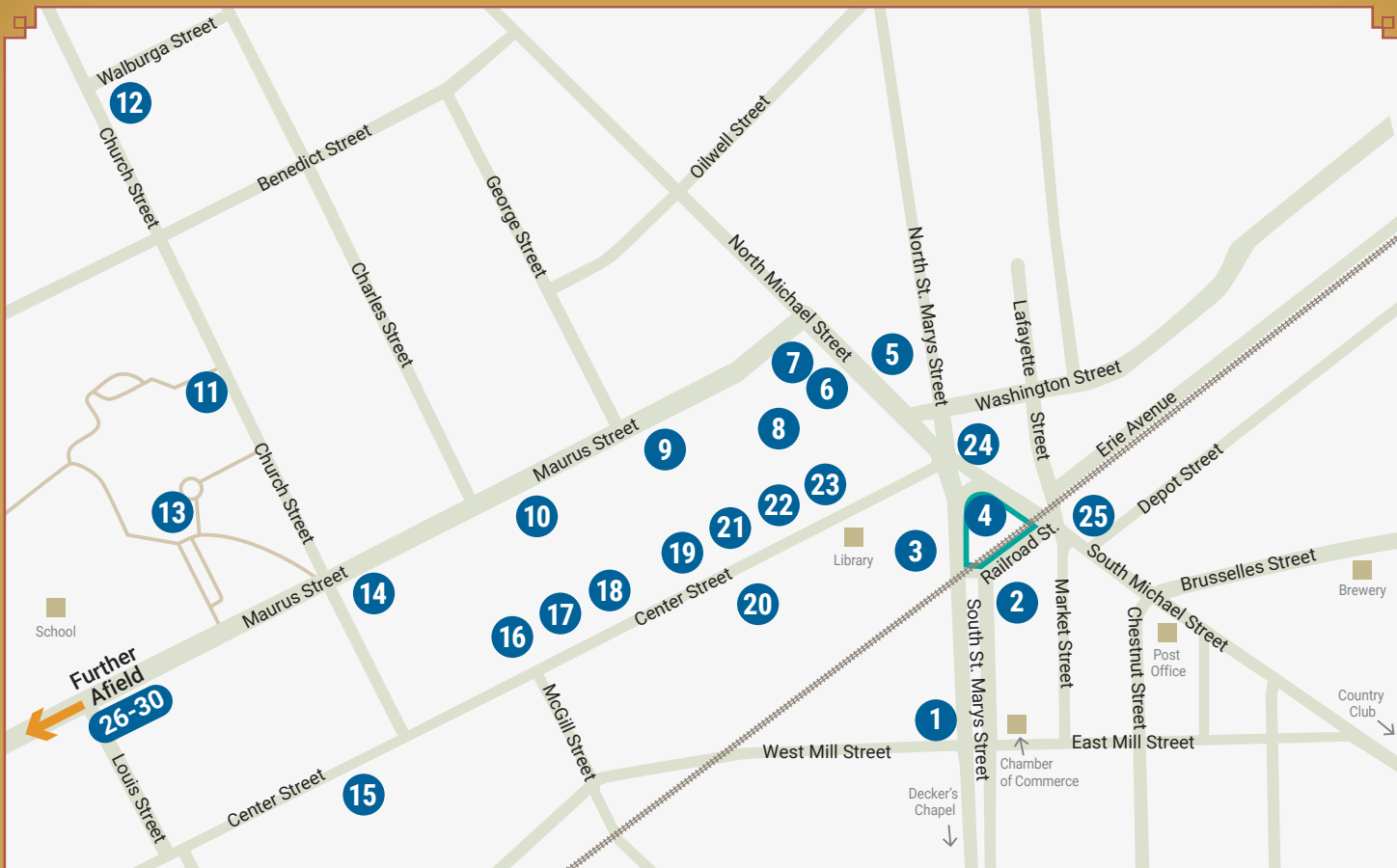
763 Johnsonburg Road

The Penn Highlands center section was built by Father Paulinus as a monastery. The daughters of Andrew Kaul donated the funds to start the hospital which was named after their father and was operated by the Benedictine nuns. Today the complex has grown to a medical campus with many buildings.



### **27** Harrison Stackpole Residence 764 Johnsonburg Road | 1950

The Manor House was built by Vinnie Sherry for a president of Stackpole Carbon Company. It includes five storage outbuildings. Every Pennsylvania native species of tree was planted on the property. It was designed for a large home to appear smaller than it was. The house had many innovations for the time.



## ST. MARYS WALKING TOUR

1. George Edward and Albert Weis Residences
  2. Memorial Bell Tower
  3. Boys & Girls Club of St. Marys
  4. Veterans Memorial Flame
  5. John Weidenboerner Residence
  6. George Wolfe Residence
  7. Harry Stackpole First Residence
  8. Sebastian Wimmer Residence
  9. George Fehrenbach Residence
  10. William Reuscher Residence
  11. St. Marys Church
  12. Vincent Sherry Residence
  13. St. Joseph's Benedictine Convent
  14. St. Marys Second Monastery
  15. George Hauber Residence
  16. William Bauer Residence
  17. Sacred Heart Church
  18. Charles Luhr Residence
  19. Frank Kaul Residence
  20. Francis Hauber Residence
  21. George Simons Residence
  22. Charles Lion Residence
  23. Dr. Eben Russ Residence
  24. Apollo Theatre
  25. H.M. Silman Building & Arcade Hotel and Restaurant / McGovern Tavern
- FURTHER AFIELD**
26. First Monastery Building / Andrew Kaul Memorial Hospital, Johnsonburg Road
  27. Harrison C. Stackpole Residence, Johnsonburg Road
  28. Harry Stackpole, Second Residence, 728 Maurus Street
  29. Richard Fryling Residence 741 Maurus Street
  30. Hall Stackpole Residence 715 Maurus Street



**Mission:** St. Marys Heritage Preservation Group will advocate for, build awareness of, and encourage the conservation of the cultural, historic, recreational and economic resources in the downtown St. Marys District.



Scan code for our on-line map for further information. On individual sites, click on the map number.





# ST. MARYS

## ELK COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA



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