

# Self-Guided Walking Tour of Historic Lewistown



Welcome to historic Lewistown! This self-guided tour will give you an opportunity to learn about the history and architecture of what started as an 18th century settlement on the Pennsylvania frontier. This is a community proud of its heritage and committed to preserving it for future generations.

## HISTORY

Let's begin the story of Lewistown here, at the 1843 courthouse, third in a line of four seats of county government, located on Monument Square. That's #1 on the Walking Tour. The current Mifflin County courthouse is a block away at the corner of Wayne and Third Streets.

Walk up the steps this historic building and turn around. Notice a Pennsylvania Historical Marker, which reads: *Mifflin County – Formed September 19, 1789 from Cumberland and Northumberland counties, and named for Thomas Mifflin, Governor, 1790-99. County seat, Lewistown, was laid out 1790; incorporated 1795. Important in Pennsylvania's canal development and early iron industry.*

The history of Lewistown started far earlier than the town's official founding in 1795. The Shawnee people were the last in a line of American Indians to live in what is now Mifflin County, allowed into the area by the Iroquois nation, then concentrated in New York State. The Iroquois described central Pennsylvania and the Kishacoquillas and Juniata Valleys as some of the best hunting areas and actively controlled the territory. It was in fact William Penn's policy of fair dealing with the American Indians that prevented earlier settlement by Europeans in the Mifflin County area. Traders moved into the area as early as the 1730s and settlers would follow in large numbers, interrupted only by the French & Indian War the 1750s.

The center of town looked quite different in say 1861 when local boys played football in the same space now occupied by the monument. Nearby, farmers sold their produce, people picnicked and meetings were held. This all changed in the

early 1900s, when Monument Square, with an imposing granite column in an oval of green grass, was established. The 1906 memorial was originally dedicated to the soldiers and sailors of the Civil War, but was rededicated in 1969 to all who served and died in service to the country. It is guarded by four vintage cannons.

Before beginning your walking tour of the town, consider this: Within one square mile of the Square, one would find an impressive list of people and events that influenced a broad cross-section of American history.

A partial list of prominent individuals born or who lived or worked in the Lewistown area includes: Notable American Indian leaders of the colonial period; six US generals; three defenders of the Alamo; the builder of the US fleet of the War of 1812; a US naval commodore who led a fleet in the Mexican War; the man who led the first soldiers to fight for the Union in the Civil War; 19 newspaper publishers; four Congressional Medal of Honor recipients; the women who started the school system in Panama; the wife of Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Wells; the parents of Robert Frost; composer Stephen Foster's wife; and one of the four WW II chaplains, George L. Fox, immortalized on a US postage stamp, who died on the torpedoed troopship *Dorchester*; the longtime voice of Penn State football, Fran Fisher and actor Joe Campanella, who both worked at local radio stations.

In addition, a battle of the French and Indian War was fought within that same square mile. The only stone to ever be removed from Abraham Lincoln's tomb in Springfield, Illinois is here, too. A 1776 copy of the Declaration of Independence was kept in a box just a couple of blocks up Main Street. And a local health drink with a secret recipe, which drew the famous from Hollywood prior to WWII, was concocted a block away.

As you walk around Lewistown, you will notice historic buildings representing most of the major styles of architecture dating back to the early 19th century.

## 1. Mifflin County Historic Courthouse

1 West Market Street

Mifflin County's third county courthouse, built in 1843 and enlarged to present size in 1878. Completely renovated in 2003/04 bringing the courtroom back to her former beauty. High school commencements, traveling plays and public spectacles took place in the upstairs courtroom in earlier years. Enterprises such as a butcher shop, oyster bars, an academy and various eateries occupied basement rooms at one time or another. The building currently is the home of the Mifflin County Historical Society, Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau and Downtown Lewistown. [N, H]



most famous nerve and rejuvenation tonic. The "magic elixir" drew the rich and famous from as far away as Hollywood to Lewistown to buy a case of the bottled wonder and taste the healthful benefits of his all-natural medicine, guaranteed to cure a long list of ailments. Doc Eby was also Lewistown's unofficial greeter, welcoming the numerous entertainers who came to town while touring the theatrical circuit in the 1920s, 30s and 40s.



## 4. Mifflin County Correctional Facility

Northwest corner of Wayne and West Market Streets



This location was the original site of Mifflin County's first courthouse, a two story log structure that included a courtroom on the second floor and a jail on the first. This location was the scene of the famous Lewistown Riot of 1791. A large group of disgruntled citizens came up from "below the Long Narrows" in what is now Juniata County, but was then a part of this county, to protest the selection of the county's first justices. For a short time, Mifflin County's sheriff was held hostage and sharp words were exchanged on both sides. The State's attorney was present for the swearing in of the new judges and he asserted the authority of the Commonwealth to name judges in a newly erected county, ordering the rioters to disperse. Cooler heads prevailed and violence was averted. The old log structure was replaced by a stone building in the first half of the 19th century which served as the county jail for almost 150 years, being replaced by the present Mifflin County Correctional Facility in 2000.

## 5. Ahren's Building

Corner of West Main and Juniata Streets

The "gateway" building on the corner of Juniata & West Market Streets across from the Memorial Bridge over the Juniata River was built in 1906 for the H.E.

Ahrens & Brothers Construction Company. The H.E. Ahrens & Brothers Construction Company was based in Reading but located an office in Lewistown to take advantage of a building boom occurring in Lewistown and surrounding communities. Locally, the Company built the Wollner Building in 1906 on the southwest



corner of the Square (now housing Seven Mountains Medical Center), the Sunbury & Lewistown Railroad Depot (1906) on Depot Street (now demolished), and had a "large" contract in Burnham. Ahrens Brothers Construction Company also contracted for the enlargement of the Coleman Hotel, West Market Street (1906), the Pastime Theatre on East Market Street (1907), the Parker properties on East Market Street (now demolished) and the Reedsville Water Works. [H]

## 6. Juniata River Bridge



This location, on the eastern shore of the Juniata River, was the site of several transportation bridges throughout the history of Mifflin County. With the Pennsylvania Railroad station established at Lewistown Junction in 1849 on the opposite side of the river, a bridge was a must for travel and commerce. A succession of bridges crossed the Juniata River here, including: a wooden covered bridge, a steel bridge, a steel bridge with trolley tracks, later a concrete Memorial Bridge commemorating the veterans of the First World War and the present Veterans' Memorial Bridge. At this same location, look west and notice buildings housing Mifflin County's second oldest radio station, WKVA, founded in 1949. Across the bridge from Lewistown is the Borough of Juniata Terrace, a planned community brought into existence by the American Viscose Corporation for its workers in 1920, for years, one of Mifflin County's largest employers.

## 2. Montgomery Ward Building

3-7 West Market Street

Built in 1929, this building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. This is an impressive example of Art Deco style architecture



which includes two-story bay windows and pilasters, bands of glazed terra-cotta panels and a female figure holding a torch. This image was a standard Montgomery Ward logo known as the "Spirit of Progress." The building suffered a major fire on December 20, 1936 but was renovated and the business thrived until it went out of business in the early 1980s. [N, H]

## 3. Site of Eby's Drug Store

Northeast corner of Wayne and West Market Streets

Edward "Doc" Eby operated a pharmaceutical business at this location for a generation. In his laboratory, he concocted and sold in his pharmacy a variety of health tonics through the years. Wisto, named from the five middle letters of the word Lewistown, was Doc Eby's

## 7. Lewistown Train Station

Across the river bridge at Lewistown Junction



In 1849, Mifflin County's link to the world was located across the Juniata River at Lewistown Junction. The railroad and telegraph were both located at the station, vital components of communications and commerce. A PHMC Historic Marker along Rt 103 at Lewistown Junction states: *Lewistown Station - The oldest surviving structure known to have been built by the Pennsylvania Railroad, this station was constructed in 1848-49 as a freight handling warehouse. On September 1, 1849, this was the scene of a banquet celebrating the opening of the railroad to Lewistown. The building was renovated and converted into a passenger station in 1868.* [N]

## 8. Lewistown Post Office

Southwest corner of West Market Streets and South Wayne Streets.

Lewistown's first post office was established in 1798 with Jacob Walters, the first postmaster, on the corner now occupied by the Masonic Building on Monument Square.



Known as the new Federal Building when completed in 1928, the Lewistown Post Office was built on the former site of the St. Charles Hotel. The postmaster at the time was Edward F. Brent. The cost of the main building was \$88,825, measuring 88 feet by 63 feet consisting of two stories and built of red brick, Indiana limestone, concrete and reinforced steel. The lobby is finished in Alabama black gum, giving a final finish similar to black walnut and a terrazzo floor with wainscotting of Georgia marble. The J. R. Haire Construction Company of Montgomery, Alabama completed the project, with additions, for a final cost of \$93,000.

## 9. Elk's Building

Southeast corner of Wayne and West Market Streets

This was the site of the Pennsylvania Railroad's district superintendent's home in the later 1900s. That building was eventually used as the Elk's



Orphans' Home and was eventually replaced in the 1920s by the present structure, established as the fraternal hall of the local Elk's Club. Sold by the Elk's Club in the 1990s, it was used for a short period by Mifflin County to house prisoners while the new Correctional Facility was constructed.

## 10. Coleman House

West Market Street

The first building to occupy the site was the two-story log home and office of Dr. Henry Buck before 1794. Later, the Red Lion Inn operated here. Owner Catherine Power kept



the inn active during canal days of the 1830s and made it a popular stopover for travelers on the Pennsylvania Railroad after 1849. The inn was considered headquarters of the local militia during monthly "militia days" when men gathered for mandatory drills. In 1861, word of the outbreak of war was delivered to those assembled here and within hours the Logan Guards marched off to defend the Union, first troops to answer Lincoln's call for volunteers. The inn was sold in 1870 and the name changed to the Coleman House, for the new owners, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Coleman. Fires in 1871 and 1892 destroyed the hotel on the site. Coleman reopened in 1893 and the business remained in her family until purchased in 1920 by John Miller. Members of Miller's family operated the Coleman until it was sold in 1967 to Simon and Helen Varner. The Varners sold the property to the Mifflin County Housing Authority in 1989, where it remains today, home to many of Mifflin County's older citizens. [N, H]

## 11. Wollner Building

16 W Market Street

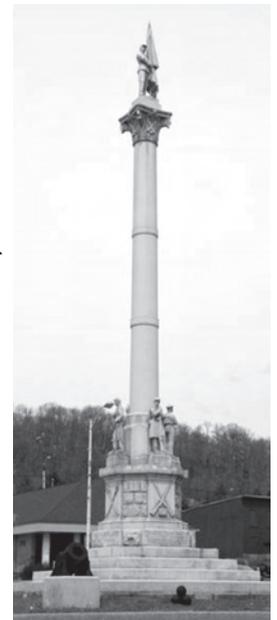
Built in 1906, the Wollner Building is a locally significant, turn-of-the-century commercial three-story brick structure.



Its significance lies in its architecture, its connection with the urbanization of Lewistown, and its association with Calvin Greene, a prominent local businessman and founder of a banking institution (Lewistown Trust Company.) Currently, the building houses the Seven Mountains Medical Center on the first floor with private apartments on the second and third floors. As you pass the Wollner Building, notice the Greek tiles on Nennie's Cafe. [N, H]

## 12. Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument

Located in the town square, the monument was built and dedicated in 1906 in recognition of the Mifflin County's soldiers and sailors who fought and died in the Civil War. It was rededicated in 1969 to all Mifflin County veterans in all and future wars. In the base of the south-side of the monument is the Lincoln Stone, so named because it came from Abraham Lincoln's tomb in Springfield, Ill., the only stone from that structure allowed to leave Illinois. It was given in remembrance and recognition of Mifflin County's First Defenders, troops of the Logan Guards who answered Lincoln's call for volunteers at the start of the Civil War.



## 13. Embassy Theatre

6 South Main Street

Last remaining historic theatre in Mifflin County. Opened October 17, 1927, the Embassy is an outstanding example of theatre architecture of the time period. The theatre's architecture is rare in that it resembles

larger urban theatres, commonly known historically as “Broadway Picture Palaces.” Closed since 1981, it was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 and is being restored as an operating theatre and community arts center. The theatre is owned by the Friends of the Embassy Theatre, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization [N, H]



#### 14. Dawe - Searer, Schrum and Searer Bldgs.

10 - 12 South Main Street

Both built in 1822, the structures are among the oldest extant buildings in Lewistown. The 10 -12 South Main Street buildings included the offices of Dr. George Dawe until 2007 and currently attorneys Searer, Schrum, and Searer, respectively. The persons who lived there played a significant role not only in the development of Mifflin County, but had influence in several key movements of the mid-



19th century. 10 South Main was the residence and office of several physicians including Dr. A.S. Harshbarger, founding member of the Lewistown Hospital. 12 South Main was the boyhood home of Methodist Bishop Isaac W. Wiley, a noted missionary and proponent of equal rights. [H]



#### 15. Hotel Lewistown

Corner of South Main and Water Streets

Built in 1937, the Hotel Lewistown was considered a “fire proof” building at the time due to its steel and concrete construction. It has offered accommodations at this location for 70 years. In the 1750s, the site was occupied by the log structure of local pioneers Arthur and Dorcas Buchanan and their family. Following Arthur’s death, Dorcas Buchanan continued to live there until her death in the early 1800s. (See Old Town Cemetery) In later generations, canal traffic could be observed from the site as early as the 1830s. Across the street, warehouses and commercial activities would have also been seen from the site.



#### 16. St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

21 South Main Street



St. Marks Episcopal Church, at the corner of South Main and Water Street, has roots beginning in 1824 when the first house of worship was constructed. The present Church is a combination of the third Church building, built 1878-79, now known as the Parish Hall, and the fourth Church structure, completed in 1899. Of interesting note, however, the 1899 building was not consecrated until all indebtedness had been paid. This blessing finally occurred on November 16, 1904 with the Reverend Ethelbert Talbot, Bishop of Central Pennsylvania presiding. This building was designed by C. M. Burns with M. B. Montgomery consulting architect to builder Anthony McCauley. McCauley was awarded a bid for construction at a sum of \$5,800 with the understanding that the contract include the hanging of the church bell and maintaining access to it. The Gothic Revival architecture of the Parish Hall and flanking stone main church building are complemented by interior features maintained throughout its history. [H]

#### 17. Benedict Mansion House

11 South Main Street

The twelve room brick house exhibits much of its original interior woodwork. Tiffany stained glass embellishes the foyer, with oak wainscoting and floor-to-ceiling oak doors featuring large panels of Tiffany stained glass. The house was likely built by Eliphalet L. Benedict, an attorney who was president of the Mifflin County Bank sometime prior to 1836. William Mitchell, publisher of the Juniata Gazette and Mifflin County Prothonotary, purchased one third of the property from E. W. Hale in 1826 for \$300. That same year,



“two-thirds of a lot” is listed in tax records as belonging to Hale and valued at \$100. The Episcopal Church would eventually occupy that part of the lot to Water St. Mitchell sold to Benedict in 1831. The property remained in the Benedict family until it was sold in 1989 by Benedict descendent Dorothy Hoot. Wade E. Curry is the present owner.

#### 18. The Swigart House

9 South Main Street

Built in 1923 for Samuel W. Swigart by one of Central Pennsylvania’s most reputable contractors, W. D. Steinbach, the Swigart House was built on land purchased by John and Mary Benedict Hoot. The three-story brick townhouse was designed by a York, Pennsylvania architect to the specifications of Steinbach. The house has a long history of commercial and residential use.



#### 19. Masonic Temple Building

2 East Market Street

Built 1893 on the corner site which had been the location of Lewistown’s first Post Office in 1798. First Masonic activity was traced to 1828 in Lewistown. With its expansive rooms and marbled entrance, the Masons occupied the second floor of the building from 1894 until 1995 when they moved out of town. The building was put up for sale and purchased by John Panizzo in 1999. Several retail establishments called the first floor of the building home over the years, including G.C. Murphy Company. Portions of the building are currently leased to Subway Sandwich Shop and Dr. Colleen McCusker Eye Care. [H]



#### 20. WMRF Site

12 1/2 East Market Street  
Mifflin County’s oldest radio station. The station, under the official name of The Lewistown Broadcasting Company, was



started in 1941 by four local businessmen, William J. Woods, T. C. Matthews, Chris Rowland, and F. Walter Fosnot. The station's call letters were the last initials of the founders. During the year leading up to the first broadcast, the owners worked feverishly to acquire the permits and build the studios on the first floor of the Coleman Hotel for the new station. One of the station's early broadcasters was future television and movie actor Joe Campanella, who became an announcer on the Voice of America programs sent into Eastern Europe after the Second World War. [H]

### 21. Russell National Bank

32 East Market Street

The site has been occupied by Lewistown banking institutions for 170 years. William Russell established his business at this site in 1849. George Russell joined his father in the banking business in 1883. The bank thrived and grew, causing this building to be razed to make way for the current structure in 1926. Currently known as the Omega Bank, Russell arrived in Mifflin County to provide banking services to a bank-starved area. The Russell Bank would become the oldest continuously operating bank in Mifflin County. The ornate building remains today at 32 East Market Street in Lewistown, a splendid legacy of the Russell family and their pride and joy, "The Old Reliable." [H]



### 22. Old Town Cemetery

S Brown/East Water Street

Originally laid out about 1790 by Lewistown founders for burial ground and meeting house, it is county owned. Graves of Dorcas Buchanan



(first white woman to live and own land where Lewistown now stands) and son Col. Arthur Buchanan, Jr. (leading figure here during the Revolution and early development of Lewistown.) In 1934, the Lewistown Civic

Club and the Mifflin County Commissioners dedicated the cemetery gates as a memorial to George R. Fryinger, Mifflin County historian and founding member of the Mifflin County Historical Society and to Dorcas Buchanan, early county pioneer.

### 23. Dorcas Holt Buchanan Grave

Traditionally recognized as the first European woman in Mifflin County, Dorcas Holt Buchanan's grave is located in the Old Town Cemetery. Her diamond-shaped headstone was carved from native stone found nearby by traders who fondly remembered this early pioneer. Arthur Buchanan, her second husband, whom she met and married in Carlisle, PA, was one of the first Indian traders in the region. In 1752, Dorcas, husband Arthur and their five children established a cabin and trading post near the Indian village of Ohesson, where Kishacoquillas Creek empties into the Juniata River. The Buchanans fled the area during the French & Indian War, but returned in 1762 after hostilities ceased. Outliving Arthur by decades, Dorcas remained in what became Lewistown, owned property and maintained a trading business. She died in 1804 at age 93.



### 24. Site of Mann Axe Factory

East side of Water Street to Dorcas Street

Former site of the Mann Edge Tool Company from 1892 until its closure. In 1835, William Mann founded the first axe factory in Mifflin County near Reedsville, about 10 miles north east of this site. In 1855, William's two sons established a plant in Yeagertown, PA and in 1892, built facilities once located here. Mann axes were used to open the frontier during westward expansion. At one time in the 1970s, Mann Edge Tool Company produced 500,000 axes per year and sent



them to every state in the Union as well as Canada, Philippines, Singapore, Malay States, Saudi Arabia and countries in South America. In 2007, the only remaining building is the office at corner of Water and Dorcas Streets.



### 26. Sentinel Building

9 S. Dorcas Street

Built 1910 and opened for business at this location on October 20, 1903. The building was built by



George C. Tate Construction of Yeagertown. The newspaper was published at this site until the new building was constructed in Pleasant Acres in the mid-1970's. The basement of the building was also used by the Stone Arch Players for a number of their performances when it was called The Pressroom Theatre. It is currently the site of the Salvation Army.

### 27. Five Points

Valley, Chestnut, North and South Dorcas Streets, plus Main Street, all converge at this point. The area has been known as Five Points for generations, however, at one time in the early 1900s, a fountain and horse trough was located in the intersection of these streets. The trough was put up in 1891, deemed a necessity for horse traffic. By 1925 it was removed in the name of progress, due to its obstruction of the busy intersection.



### 28. First Methodist Church

111 East Third Street

A Methodist Church has been on this site since 1830, however, circuit riders held Methodist meetings as early as 1802. A church building or meeting house was erected in 1815 on what is now 128 East Third Street and the Methodist congregation met there for about fifteen years. Then in 1830 and 1831, a new church was constructed on the site of the present church on the southeast corner of Third and Dorcas Streets. It was a brick structure dedicated in May 1831. Several decades would pass before

a new sanctuary would be built, which was remodelled and enlarged. In the early 1890s, the Methodist parsonage was erected, according to church histories, considered at the time one of Lewistown's finest homes. It stood on the corner across Dorcas Street from the church. The present structure was built in 1900 and included a massive Tiffany window, which faces the pulpit from the Dorcas Street side of the sanctuary. In the mid-1960s, the Tiffany window and the Third Street-facing stained glass window, were covered with protective storm glass.



and working on the new Pennsylvania Canal. A modest chapel was erected on this site in 1828 and dedicated as "All Saints Church" in 1830. It was a one story frame building standing in the yard back from Third Street. Later, a two-story brick house was built on the same lot near the corner of Dorcas and Third, intended as a parish residence and for parochial school purposes. The present Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church was constructed in the 1920s. [H]

### 29. Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church

106 North Dorcas Street



In 1827, the Catholic population of Lewistown increased to such a degree, that a petition was sent to Philadelphia requesting a priest be sent to Mifflin County. A priest was sent to administer the rites of the church to the many laborers living here

and working on the new Pennsylvania Canal. A modest chapel was erected on this site in 1828 and dedicated as "All Saints Church" in 1830. It was a one story frame building standing in the yard back from Third Street. Later, a two-story brick house was built on the same lot near the corner of Dorcas and Third, intended as a parish residence and for parochial school purposes. The present Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church was constructed in the 1920s. [H]

### 30. First Baptist Church

111 East Third Street

The First Regular Baptist Church was organized September 21, 1840 by 11 members. The following year, with 30 members, the congregation was admitted to the larger organization known as the Association. Services were once held in the second Mifflin County Courthouse, in the center of the town Square or in the homes of congregation members. They occupied the old Methodist meeting house on Third Street



until it was torn down and later held services in the Lutheran Church as a courtesy of its pastor and members. From 1871 to 1873, the Baptists worshipped in the Apprentices' Hall, in the Town Hall and other locations. In 1881, the congregation purchased this lot on Third Street and constructed a brick chapel, that has been enlarged over the years to meet the needs of its growing membership.

### 31. Presbyterian Church

17 East Third Street

A Presbyterian congregation was formed in Lewistown about one year after Mifflin County was established in 1789. Since there was no building, church meetings were held outdoors or in the county's first courthouse. On this site, a stone church was erected in 1820 and was torn down in 1854 to make room for a larger brick church. That church, in turn, was replaced by the present structure. In 1905, one member offered to be one of 10 to give \$1,000 to build a new church and it was voted to build "a new church and chapel, one or both, on the lot now occupied..." It was completed in 1910 at a cost of \$50,000.



### 32. A.L.S. Building - United Way Office

13 East Third Street

The one story Greek revival brick building, now the home of the United Way of Mifflin-Juniata, has the inscription "A. L. S. 1842" on the front of the full pediment porch. The cryptic initials and the date have been the object of speculation for many years. 1842 is not the date of construction, however, but rather when an organization whose initials are A. L. S. was formed - The Apprentices' Literary Society. This building also promoted an idea - improving the mind can improve the person and one's work. In addition, it would eventually become the predecessor of the Mifflin County Library. On November 12, 1852, Rev. John Rosenberg, Lutheran pastor, deeded to the Apprentices' Literary Society a part of Lot No. 148 on East Third Street, fronting 30 feet on Third



and running back 65 feet, adjoining ground owned by the Lewistown Academy. In March, 1853, a contract was awarded and by fall, a new brick building stood at 13 East Third Street. It was occupied by the Apprentices' Literary Society for almost sixty years. [P, H]

### 33. Site of Peacock Major's Tavern

Northeast corner of Third and Main Streets

Site of Mifflin County's first drive-thru window in a tavern owned and operated by Peacock Major. Traditionally termed the Wayside Inn, teamsters would simply drive up to a window, ring a bell and their "order" of liquid refreshment would be passed out and enjoyed without leaving the wagon seat. Legend has it, that Mrs. Major objected to the arrangement and had the window closed up. Peacock Major was also a veteran of the American Revolution and served in elective municipal office. [H]



### 34. Woodlawn

North Main Street

Ancestral home of the Woods family built in 1824 by Presbyterian pastor, Rev. James Sterrett Woods. In 1818, Rev. Woods married Marianne Frances Witherspoon, youngest daughter of Rev. John Witherspoon. Rev. Witherspoon, member of the Continental Congress from New Jersey, was the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence. A family of distinguished citizens, from soldiers to judges descended from the family. (Local lore even speaks of the family as once having of a copy of the Declaration of Independence.) Heller Hoenstine Funeral Home has been located at Woodlawn in recent times. Prior to the funeral home's occupancy, it was owned by the Borough of Lewistown. During the borough's ownership, organizations like the American Red Cross and the Boy Scouts had offices in the building. The present day municipal parking lots, a playground, tennis courts, and the Mifflin County Library were all established on property that was originally part of Rev. James S. Woods' estate. [H]



### 35. St. John's Lutheran Church

120 North Main Street  
The church was founded in 1798, erecting its first church building down the street at what is United Fire and Rescue Services at 26 W. Third Street, in 1824. The congregation purchased this lot in 1850, but it burned before completion in 1852. It was rebuilt and dedicated in 1853. The tornado of 1874 blew down the church spire. The wind drove the weather vane through the wall of the Lewistown Gazette building across the street. This building was removed and the current sanctuary was built and dedicated in 1902. There have been additions and extensions in 1911 and 1919. In 1965, the Christian Education Building was added to the west end of the building. A major renovation of the old chapel and extensions occupied in 1993.



### 36. Lewistown Borough Building

2 East Third Street



This site was once occupied by the Old Town Hall or city building, not to be confused with the county courthouse down the street. It was a multi-stories, brick structure housing city offices and second floor meeting hall. In December 1935 this old building was razed to make room for the new \$65,000 Municipal Building. By July 1937, Lewistown's new seat of borough government was dedicated after having been constructed with the aid of Works Progress Administration funds. The architectural style is typical of the construction of the era.

### 37. McCoy House

17 N Main Street

This 1841, 2 1/2 story brick and frame house is a lovely example of post-revolutionary architecture in a rural setting. Birthplace of Major General Frank R. McCoy, 1874, son of Brigadier General Thomas F. McCoy. Frank was a West Point Graduate. He had an active military and diplomatic career from his serving as a Junior Aide to President Roosevelt in 1902 to his chairmanship of the Far Eastern Commission in 1945. The building is currently owned by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, is managed by the Mifflin County Historical Society and houses the society's museum. [N, H]



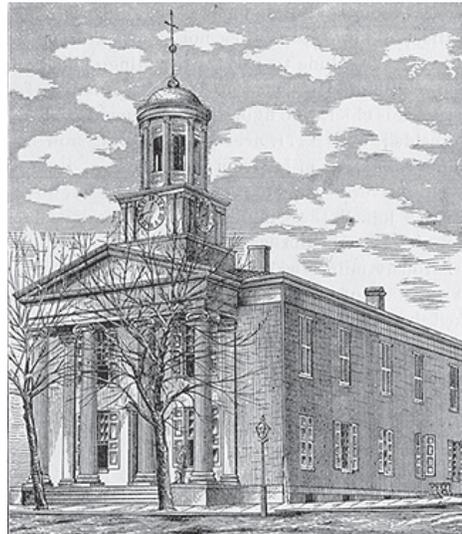
*Please respect the privacy of the owners of these properties. Residences featured on this walking tour are not open to the public.*

Notations for various building recognitions used in this publication:

N - National Register of Historic Places (NPS)

P - Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks (PHMC)

H - Recognized by Historic Heritage Committee



Mifflin County's third courthouse in the 1870s.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

If you would like to learn more about Lewistown's history, visit the Mifflin County Historical Society located in the Historic Courthouse on Monument Square, 1 West Market Street, Lewistown, PA, (#1 on the Walking Tour). The MCHS office is open Tues. and Wed. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The MCHS Research Library is open Tues. and Wed. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the first and third Sat. of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Photographs by W. Jaynee Carolus

Brochure design and text by Forest K. Fisher

## COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Mifflin County Historical Society  
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Historic Courthouse on the Square  
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