Source acknowledgments

"Historical Sketch of Franklin County, Penn."
by I.H. M'Cauley
"Waynesboro" by Benjamin Mathias Nead
"A Reflection of the History of Waynesboro,
Pennsylvania and Vicinity, Volumes I, II and II"
by Carl V. Besore and Robert L. Ringer
Robert L. Ringer Photograph Collection
(Waynesboro Historical Society)
"Around Waynesboro with Pen and Ink,"
historical sketches by Terry Mitchell

If you want to know more

If you want to know more about Waynesboro's history, check out these resources:

• Waynesboro Historical Society, 138 W. Main St., Waynesboro, 762-1747, www.waynesborohistory.com

• Waynesboro Industrial Heritage Museum, 235 Philadelphia Ave., Waynesboro

• Renfrew Museum, 1010 E. Main St., Waynesboro, 762-4723, www.renfrewmuseum.org

• Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library, 45 E. Main St., Waynesboro, 762-3335, www.ahmfl.org

• Franklin County Historical Society-Kittochtinny, 175 E. King St., Chambersburg, 264-1667, franklincountyhistoricalsociety.org

2010

A Walk Through History

WAYNESBORO, PA
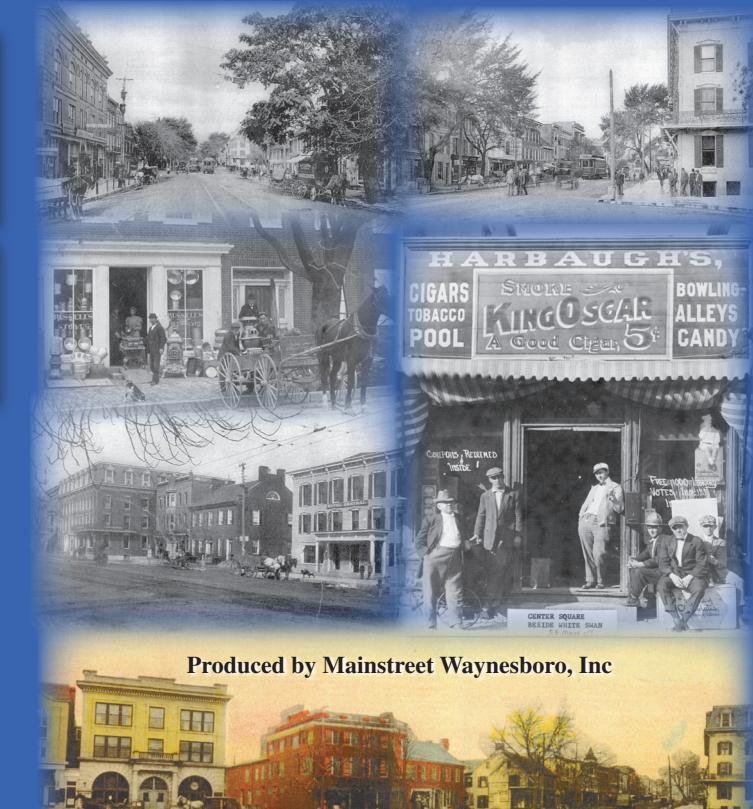
Produced by Mainstreet Waynesboro, Inc

A WALK THROUGH HISTORY

Welcome to a self-guided walking tour of Waynesboro, a town that, thanks to early industrialists who laid deep roots in the mid-1800s, once had more millionaires per capita than any town east of the Mississippi. The detailed architecture you'll see is reflective of that prosperity; we urge you to "look up" as you walk to appreciate the intricate touches on many downtown buildings.

You'll see a building that Confederate soldiers commandeered in 1863, as well as a towering landmark that once was the town's Opera House and the spot where Waynesboro's grand theater, The Arcade, once proudly stood.

Waynesboro has been called by many names — Mount Vernon, Wallacetown, John Wallace's Town, Waynesburg and Waynesborough — but it traces its roots to 1749, when John Wallace began accumulating Pennsylvania land grants in the southern Cumberland Valley, where you now stand.

When John Wallace died in 1777, the land conveyed to his son George, who then gave it to his brother Thomas, who upon his death left the tract called "Mount Vernon" to his brother John, who was off fighting in the Revolutionary War under General "Mad" Anthony Wayne.

Apparently the younger John Wallace was quite impressed by his commanding general, so when he laid out 90 numbered lots for "John Wallace's Town," also called "Wallacetown," along the present-day Main and Church streets, he decided to honor Gen. Wayne by calling his town "Waynesburg."

In 1831, the town was incorporated under the name "Waynesborough," commonly shortened to Waynesboro.

Between 1901 and 1932, trolley tracks ran east and west through the center of Main Street. As you take your walking tour, imagine what Waynesboro was like in the early 20th century: clanging trolleys, busy sidewalks, flourishing commerce, horse-drawn buggies, dry goods stores, blacksmiths and cobblers and several hotels to serve the many visitors.

T his map shows John Wallace's original town plot for Waynesboro. You'll be visiting 20 buildings today as you make your way along Main Street.

Before the days of convenience stores and shopping malls, Main Street was the center of commerce for those who lived in town, in surrounding villages and on the many farmsteads dotting the countryside. On Fridays and Saturdays, the streets were filled with busy people as they made their way to the banks, theaters, grocery stores, clothing shops, hardware stores and newspaper offices.

Today, Main Street is undergoing a rebirth, and we're proud to share with you some of our rich history.

To begin your walking tour, proceed to the southeast corner of Center Square, to the Bank Building at 2-4 East Main Street.



A true copy taken from the original, 6th March, 1796.

CHAMBERSBURG RO.

HANS GORDON
JACOB STEVENS
FLEMING & McCLEREGHEG.
FLEMING & McCLEREGHEG.
JOHN WILSON.

THOMAS HUNTER.
THE MEETING HOUSE.
JOSHUA STEVENS
JACOB STEVENS.
JACOB STEVENS
JACOB STEVENS
JACOB STEVENS
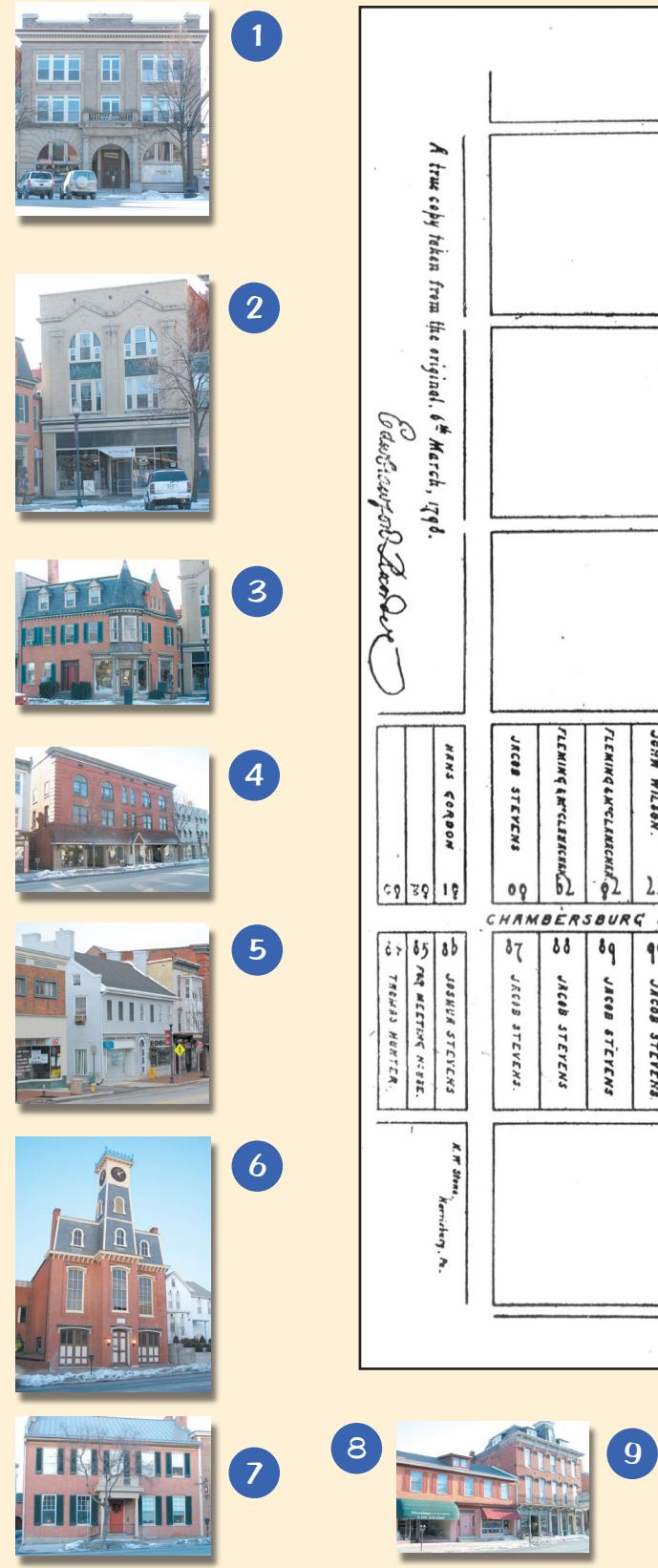
Bourns Cabin

Toll Gate House
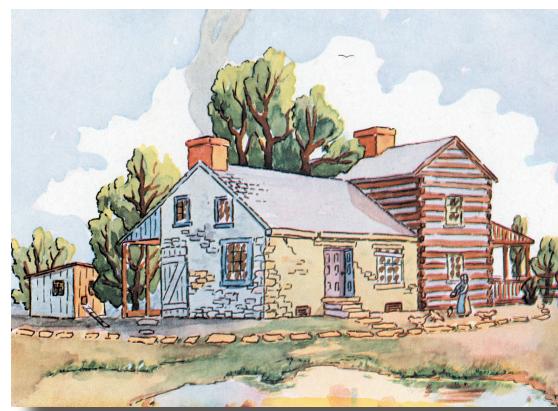
Once the oldest house in Waynesboro, this This little stone kitchen on the left once stood between Waynesboro Area Senior High School and the middle school on what today is East Second Street. The log house was built by John Wallace, the founder of Waynesboro, and the kitchen added around 1750. The log cabin was demolished in the late 1800s and the dilapidated stone house was removed when Summitview Elementary and the middle school were built in the 1970s.

CRANWELL BUILDING — *6-10 W. Main St.*

Just like the Shively Building that once stood directly across the square, the Cranwell Building was known for all the drug stores that once graced the front storerooms. The first confirmed was Croft's ((1922), although records indicate an earlier one. Following, in order, were Coffman's, J.W. Clugston's and, finally, Funk's Drug Store. Other businesses once housed in the two storefronts were Spiro's New York Bargain Store, a clothing store, Fisher's Stationery and Office Essentials.
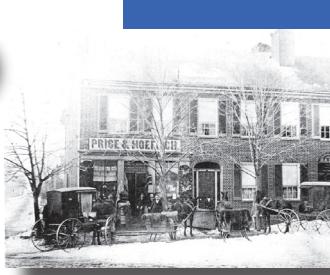
BESORE BUILDING — *2-4 W. Main St.*

Josiah Besore purchased this tract in 1854 and moved his merchant store from the opposite side of Center Square. When Confederates occupied the town in 1863, they stripped the store of its contents, and Josiah Besore likely suffered the most loss of any merchant in town. For more than 70 years, this was a dry goods store owned and operated by such businessmen as George and Josiah Besore, Besore and Balsley, Besore and Kuhn, Price and Hoeflich, Hoeflich and Good, Good, Besore and Unger and, finally, Besore Dry Goods Co. The third floor was added to the front in 1907, when a two-story addition was built along South Church Street. The Besore family was involved until 1928. In 1929, Leiter Brothers opened here, followed by Routzahn's. Today, Frank's Pizza serves up Italian fare

ORIGINAL TOWN PLOT OF WAYNESBORO

ORIGINAL PLOT - OF - "WAYNESBURG" - FRANKLIN CO. - - PENNA. - 1797.

1 BANK BUILDING — *2-4 E. Main St.*

The "Bank Building," completed in 1904, replaced one of the first houses built in town. Originally the Bank of Waynesboro, the structure housed a number of financial institutions over the years, as well Waynesboro's electric company, the post office, a bus station, a town library, justice of the peace office and even a U.S. Army recruiting office during World War II. The basement, excavated in 1923, has served as a pool room, barber shop, taxi office and headquarters of the Waynesboro Little League.

2 COLLINS BUILDING — *6-8 E. Main St.*

Waynesboro's first town hall was built here in 1853. On June 23, 1863, Jubal Early's Confederate guard entered Waynesboro on the way to Gettysburg, made the Town Hall its headquarters and placed the town under martial law. The women folk reluctantly baked bread for the troops while the Rebels pilfered stores and livestock. The building was used as a community hall and fire house before serving as a dry goods store, grocery, millinery, The Keystone Gazette (predecessor to today's Record Herald), a notary, attorneys, dentist, an architect and several barbers. It also housed a "high class moving picture outfit" on the second floor and was home to the town's first movie theaters. The post office was here until 1935. Millard Ullman bought the Collins Building in 1945 and moved his shoe business to the east side. Until recently, it was a law office.
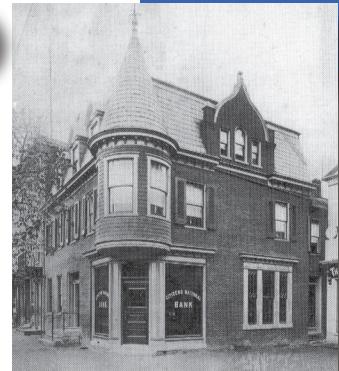
3 THE CANDY KITCHEN — *12-14 E. Main St.*

This "sweet spot" has been a Waynesboro fixture since the early 1920s, when the Leos family began its candy-making business — an operation that continues to this day. The Lewis Detrich family had a home here for many years, and Detrich built the current building. The town's second bank, Peoples National Bank of Waynesboro, opened for business here on Sept. 19, 1890. The bank moved five years later, when it built its own headquarters on West Main Street, now known as the Masonic Building. Several other banks and a florist preceded the Leos family's long history of candy-making.

16 THE WAYNE BUILDING — *92-96 W. Main St.*

When constructed in the early 1900s, the first Wayne Building was the largest structure in Franklin County. The three-story building fronted 84 feet on Main Street and 112 feet on South Potomac, was nearly 50 feet high and had a 10-foot tower above the roof level. It boasted steam heat, gas and electric lights and was built by J.J. Oller and J.H. Stoner. Oller bought out Stoner's half interest in 1907, making him the sole owner. On Jan. 19, 1930, the Wayne Building was destroyed by a fire discovered early in the morning by a third-floor resident. The blaze wiped out 14 businesses. Five days later, Oller announced plans to rebuild. The new four-story "fireproof" building was about the same size as the original. Before the Wayne Building, various blacksmiths called this property home.
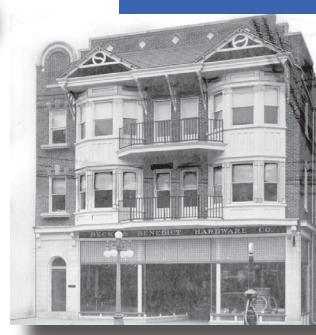
17 BECK & BENEDICT HARDWARE STORE — *86 W. Main St.*

This newly renovated downtown building was home for nearly 90 years to the Beck & Benedict Hardware Store, whose floor-to-ceiling shelves and hundreds of small wooden drawers held a huge variety of bolts, screws, precision tools and other household items. People used to said that "If it couldn't be found at Beck and Benedict, it wasn't available." The store traces its beginnings to 1900, when J.E. Beck partnered with John G. Corbett to open Beck & Corbett in the original Wayne Building. In 1906, Corbett sold his interest to Daniel G. Benedict, and Beck & Benedict Hardware was born. The current building dates to 1916. Robert L. Myers and Elwood Fry ran the store from 1955 to 1969, when Lambert "Nipper" Geesaman took over. Geesaman sold the store in 1984 to Dick Boschert, who moved the hardware store to Walnut Street. The curbside gasoline pump in the photo was removed in 1955 because it was in violation of a borough ordinance.

18 RINEHART BUILDING — *22 W. Main St.*

Look up and admire the portico above the storeroom of this building, which was built in 1870 by S.B. Rinehart. It was Rinehart who erected a two-story back building, added an office and brought several structures under one roof, making the building 139 feet long. The portico above the storeroom was added in 1878, when the windows were cut down and made double. The main front building was constructed of stone, probably as early as 1810. The back buildings are brick.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON LIBRARY — *45 E. Main St.*

7

The town's library is not named for Alexander Hamilton the founding father, but for Alexander Hamilton, a Waynesboro land speculator and wagon maker. Built around 1816 by John Bittinger, the Georgian-style 16-room brick house with dual fireplace chimneys was purchased by Waynesboro's Alexander Hamilton in 1842. The house remained in the family until the death in 1943 of Hamilton's granddaughter, Jane Stover Yost, who bequeathed the property to the Borough of Waynesboro for the town's first permanent public library. The McCleary home, once located on the east side of the library, was demolished to make way for the library wing added in 1987. The back yard contains a summer kitchen from the Hamilton era, as well as old gristmill grinding stones donated by Sammy Stoner. A brick courtyard and flower gardens make the area a charming place to visit.
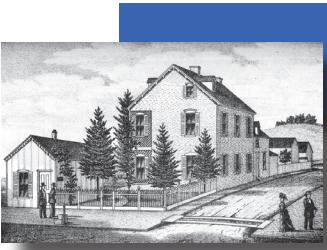
BONEBRAKE-HERING BUILDING — *35-43 E. Main St.*

8

Dr. A.S. Bonebrake built the three-story brick building on the east side of John Wallace's Lot 31. It enlarged an earlier building constructed by Dr. Edwin A. Hering, the son-in-law of Alexander Hamilton. As early as 1864, Hering had both his home and medical practice here. This building, as well as the two-story one on the west side of Lot 31, have been home to a number of businesses over the years. The three-story structure housed Alrich Jewelry, at least three groceries, the Waynesboro Press, the Chamber of Commerce, K.G. Potter Insurance and, until recently, long-time tenant Harbaugh's Hardware. A small brick building in the rear was home to an ice cream shop in the late 1920s. The building on your left was home to Russell Tinware and Stoves, Alfred N. Russell Notary Public and both the Decker and Sulanke meat markets. Both have apartments on the upper floors.
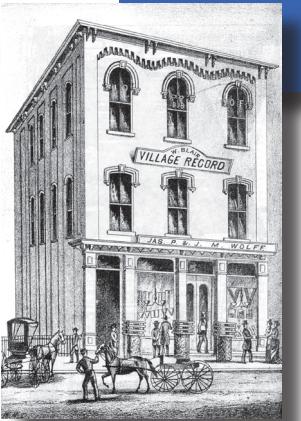
I.O.O.F. BUILDING — *23-33 E. Main St.*

9

This storefront has housed a gentleman's furnishings store, a books and confections business, The Village Record (an early Waynesboro newspaper) and, in the 1950s, Waynesboro's first radio station, WAYZ. The Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce also once called this building home, as did a fraternal organization called the Independent Order Of Oddfellows. Known as the three-link fraternity, the I.O.O.F. is symbolized by three links joined together. That symbol once graced the front of the building between the first and second floors.


THE WHITE SWAN — *1-7 E. Main St.*

10

The White Swan is the oldest commercial building still in existence in Waynesboro. The current three-story structure was built of stone in 1812, replacing a two-story wooden hotel constructed in 1798. The hotel was called The Washington Inn in 1853 and The Washington Hotel in 1863. Soon after, the name was charged to the Central House and later, the Hotel Central. In 1927, it became The White Swan Tavern, a name that stuck for decades until the tavern closed. Many businesses have operated in the main White Swan building and the two small buildings to the immediate east, which probably also date to the 1812 time period. They include a billiards and cigar shop, restaurants, a plumbing business, cobbler, attorney, dentist, furniture store and several pizza shops.
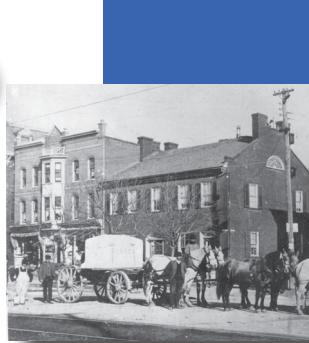
BESORE-STRICKLER BUILDING — *1-3 W. Main St.*

11

This wonderful example of colonial architecture was constructed by George Besore, whose parents bought the property in 1826 and deeded it to their son. Notice the style closely resembles the Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library with its parapet roof and twin chimneys. After the Battle of Gettysburg, Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Neill and his staff were headquartered in Besore's home while awaiting orders from Gen. George Meade. The first Besore's Dry Goods Store was headquartered here. Later, the structure was called the Strickler Building because for years, it was the home and office of Dr. Abraham H. Strickler. Many insurance companies have called this building home, including Craig Friedly, which was headquartered here from 1947 to 2000. Today, it has a new name with new owners.

NATIONAL HOTEL — *15-19 W. Main St.*

12

Imagine a huge hotel here with a large arched driveway leading to stables for 50 horses at the rear. The brick hotel, built in 1818 by Michael Stoner, once stretched to the alley to your west. In 1853, the hotel, then called the Waynesboro Hotel, was operated by S.P. Stoner. Jacob J. Miller added a third story in 1879 and changed the name to the National Hotel. Miller also converted the large brick archway into a hallway. The hotel had 30 rooms, an 18-by-40-foot dining room and 33 regular boarders. It could accommodate 75 guests. In 1902, the hotel was sold to Aaron Werner, who changed its name to the Werner Hotel. The First National Bank bought the building for $50,000 in 1919 and hired Wyatt and Nolting to design the current bank building. On June 29, 1973, the original part of the hotel, then occupied by Sherman's Department Store, caught fire and was demolished.
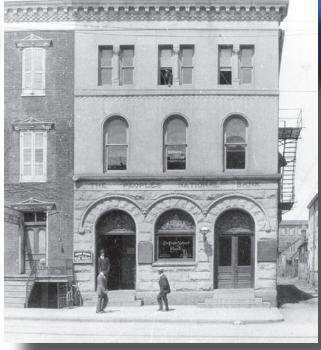
13 — MASONIC LODGE BUILDING — 33 W. Main St.

The Peoples National Bank had this building constructed in 1895 at a cost of $8,500, plus $267 for the stone cornice. A three-story 24-by-84-foot brick building was added to the rear in 1901, and it once was home to The Record Herald's printing plant. Within 25 years, the bank had grown so much it had to find a new location. But before the move took place, Peoples National Bank merged with the National Bank to form First National Bank of Waynesboro on Dec. 31, 1920. The former bank building was sold to the Waynesboro Masonic Building Association in 1922 for $35,000. The Masonic Lodge has occupied the second and third floors since then.

14 — HOTEL WASHINGTON — 51-53 1/2 W. Main St.

A third downtown hotel once stood on this site, now home to Dollar General and owned by Michael Benedict. Michael Stoner, who also built the National Hotel, purchased the lot in 1797 from John Wallace and built the first structure in 1819. Over the years, hotel operations were conducted under various names. In 1896, it was operated by H. McCleary and had rooms for 20 people, with weekly rates ranging from $4 to $8. From the late 1880s, it was known as the Washington Hotel. The site also was home to a number of businesses, including W.W. "Dutch" Shaffer's Barber Shop, Gus Barbuzanes' Shoe Repair and Hat Cleaning, Ruth Baker's Beauty Salon and, from 1926 until the end of World War II, a tavern and dining facility operated by Walter D. McLaughlin. Excavation for a McCrory's store began in April 1953 after the hotel was razed.

15 — THE ARCADE — 71-79 W. Main St.

Look up and imagine the grand four-story theater building that once graced this site. One of Waynesboro's gems, the Arcade Building was designed by J.W. Woltz, who designed a host of other prominent Waynesboro buildings. The Arcade Theatre, which had 1,056 seats and cost $130,000 to build in 1916, boasted the largest stage east of the Mississippi when it opened. Locals have fond memories of visiting the shops (including a camera shop and record store) that once lined the impressive indoor arcade leading to the theater entrance, the all-day Saturday movie showings, and their first kiss in the balcony of the theater. The building, which had fallen into disrepair, was sold for $63,000 on March 30, 1966, to Oyer Construction, which demolished the structure and built the present building.

4 — THE WOLFF BLOCK — 24-32 E. Main St.

From 1830s through the late 1860s, Lewis S. Forney operated a successful tannery on this spot in the heart of downtown. Imagine the smells as animal skins were converted to leather! In 1873, the first Wolff Building was constructed here, only to be destroyed by a massive fire in March 1900. The new building, known as the Wolff Block, housed a popular dry goods, furniture and carpet business operated by John and James Wolff and C.C. McKown. The three-story, deep building was home to many other businesses such as dentist offices, a photo shop, music store, Bohn Electric and Caslon Press. Many fraternal clubs and organizations met monthly in the upstairs meeting rooms, and for a time, The Keystone Gazette was headquartered at the rear of the building. Val Smith's Variety Store called the building home for years.
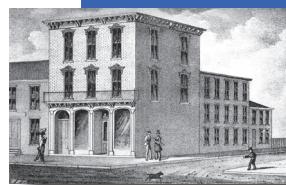
5 — 34-42 E. Main St.

Since the 1890s, these two buildings, now home to Zoe's and a used book store, have contained many distinct and varied businesses, although locals perhaps remember the book store best as the Blue Ridge and Greyhound bus terminals. An 1853 map indicates Lewis S. Forney, who operated the tannery to the west, lived in a home on this lot, with his son Adam residing in an adjoining brick house, three stories high. The first-floor street front rooms were used as the sales rooms for the tannery business. In 1907, the Nickolas & Lewis Skaves Restaurant and James Skaves "Candy Kitchen" were listed in a city directory, while the F.E. Grove furniture and undertaking business was listed in 1911. Most likely, the latter two were the beginnings of today's Candy Kitchen and Grove-Bowersox Funeral Home.

PLEASE USE THE CROSSWALK AND CROSS TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF MAIN STREET. PROCEED EAST (RIGHT) TO THE BUILDING UNDER THE TOWN CLOCK.

6 — BOROUGH HALL — 55-57 E. Main St.

Waynesboro's Town Hall was built in 1881. Just 38 feet wide and 95 feet deep, the two-story building housed the Mechanics SFE& Hose Co. on the west side and the town's other fire company, the ATH&L, on the east. Horse-drawn fire wagons would rush out the doors when a fire alarm sounded. The second floor featured a large auditorium, council meeting room and town offices. Musical and dramatic performances, high school graduations and Little Theater productions were held in the auditorium before it was converted to office space in the 1970s. C.E. Dice rented the auditorium for eight nights in November 1883, removed the seats and opened a short-lived skating rink. The Wayne Band has practiced on the second floor for much of its 100-years plus existence. In the 1970s, the town bought the M.E. Florence home on the west side of Lot 29 and demolished it to make way for a borough office expansion.

PROCEED WEST TOWARD CENTER SQUARE TO CONTINUE THE TOUR.