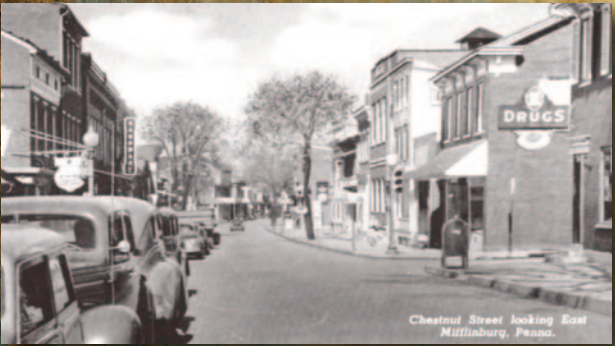




Chestnut Street Looking West - Circa 1920
The Young Mansion is on the left. The original Mifflinburg Bank & Trust is beside it.



Chestnut Street Looking East - Circa 1930
Reed's Drugstore on the southwest corner was a popular place for ice cream and soda.



Circa 1915 - Clark Lance (seated left), used a bobsled to convey goods from the railroad station. The Hopp Carriage Company at the corner of Fourth and Walnut Streets is at left. The building with the stripe above the second floor was Sankey Hall. The auditorium and stage were on the second floor, where traveling companies as well as local bands and actors performed.



Mifflinburg Buggy Museum

For a more in-depth guided walking tour, please contact Mifflinburg Heritage & Revitalization Association (MHRA) at 570-966-1666 or the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum at 570-966-1355.

MIFFLINBURG

HERITAGE & REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

300 Chestnut St., Mifflinburg, PA 17844
570-966-1666
mhra@dejazzd.com
www.mifflinburgpa.com
www.facebook.com/MHRA
www.facebook.com/EliasCenterforthePerformingArts



598 Green Street, Mifflinburg, PA 17844
570-966-1355
mifflinburgbuggymuseum@gmail.com
www.buggymuseum.org
www.facebook.com/MifflinburgBuggyMuseum

Both organizations are designated 501(c)(3) nonprofits.

Mifflinburg

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



Mifflinburg began as a small settlement to support the surrounding farms. Laid out as two villages, Youngmanstown (1792) to the west and Greenville (1797) to the east, they grew together and were incorporated as Mifflinburg in 1827. Businesses varied from blacksmiths to clockmakers, from tanneries to feed mills. A new industry was introduced in 1855: carriage manufacturing. Buggy making helped to shape the growth of the town and its architecture over the next 90 years.

1 The Mifflinburg Hotel/Scarlet D Tavern (264 Chestnut St.) was originally the site of Stitzer Inn built in 1829. The original structure was replaced in 1858 and was known successively as the Deckard Hotel, the Union Hotel, and then the Hotel Hopp.



Deckard Hotel

2 Across the street at 275 Chestnut St. is the Ritter House. Enoch Miller, one of the town's most prominent builders, built this house for his daughter, Virginia "Bessie" Ritter, and her husband James. James was a successful buggy salesman and a silent partner in the Hopp Carriage Company.



Ritter House

3 The Young Mansion (333 Chestnut St.) was actually two homes built as mirror images under one roof. The Young brothers, who owned a hardware store and built the Young Hotel, later called the Buffalo Valley Inn, were great supporters of the buggy industry.

4 On the opposite side of the street at 350 Chestnut St. was the Gast Department Store. Henry Gast began his career pushing a cart but eventually had Enoch Miller build this structure, which was the first in the area to use pneumatic tubes.



Gast Department Store

5 At 358 Walnut St., second generation buggy makers Robert Gutelius and Harry Blair, along with newcomer, Alfred Hopp, bought an existing buggy factory and opened the Mifflinburg Buggy Company. The partnership lasted six years and then Hopp opened his own factory next door. Both companies were fiercely competitive ranking number one and two in manufacturing.



Hopp Carriage Company (left) and Mifflinburg Buggy Company (right)



6 Notice that many of the homes on the south side of the 500 block of Walnut Street are identical. Entrepreneur Kitty Romig heard a rumor of a new business coming to the western edge of town. To capitalize on this, she bought property along Walnut Street and built inexpensive homes for workers. She also built a home for herself and her husband Fish. The Romig House (600 Walnut St.) is the only house in town to have a "widow's walk," a rooftop balcony accessed through a hole in the roof. The rumor Kitty heard turned out to be true.



Romig Square - also called "Kittyville"

7 Horace Orwig, a lumberman from the western end of the county, built a company to make wooden carriage and automobile bodies. By 1913, the Mifflinburg Body and Gear Company (5 North 8th St.) had merged with the Mifflinburg Buggy Company and become the Mifflinburg Body Company. They made automobile bodies until 1938 when the company filed for bankruptcy. Purchased by the American Billiard and Bowling Company of Long Island, NY, the building became the Mifflinburg Body



Mifflinburg Body Company



Works and made, among other things, pool tables and bowling alley lanes.

8 The Mifflinburg Buggy Museum Visitor Center was the site of the Mifflinburg Academy, the town's first public school. The Museum complex includes the original Heiss Coach Works and family home. It is open to the public.



Interior of Snyder Education and Visitor Center, Mifflinburg Buggy Museum



Mifflinburg Academy, the first public school in town

9 201-203 5th St. was the site of the German School built in 1913. It was a subscription school where classes were taught in German. For a few months in 1814-15, the building served as the county courthouse while one was being built in New Berlin.



The German School

10 The Weirick House (433 Green St.) was built in the 19th century and was the home to the widow of the founder of Penns Creek. It is owned by MHRA.

11 The historic Elias Center (212 S. 5th St.) began as the German Lutheran Reformed Church. It was built in 1806 by two congregations and was used as a church until 1858. It was then used as a school, a barn, a buggy factory and a duplex. Currently, it is used as a rental for weddings and special events as well as a performing arts center focusing on family and children's programming. The building is owned by MHRA.



The Elias when it was used as a buggy repository

12 The Gutelius House (432 Green St.) was built in 1803 by Frederick and Anna Gutelius. They had 15 children, 13 of whom survived to adulthood. Their descendants eventually owned 17 separate buggy factories within the town. The property is owned and operated as a museum by Preservation Mifflinburg, Inc.



The Gutelius House

13 At 406 Green St. is an 1813 structure built to serve as a courthouse for the newly formed Union County.

14 The Raymond B. Winter home (400 Green St.) was a Sears' catalog house. R.B. Winter was instrumental in establishing the state park which now bears his name.

Mifflinburg Borough

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR GUIDE



15 At 401 Market St. is the Henry Gast residence. It was built in 1840 using locally made soft bricks on three sides and “imported” hard bricks on the façade. The property included a house turned blacksmith shop and the town jail. Gast was the owner of the Gast Department Store.



Henry Gast House

16 St. John's United Church of Christ (417 Market St.) was built as the German Reformed Church in 1857 and was one half of the original Elias Church. This photograph shows its exceptionally tall steeple, which was destroyed by lightning in 1916.



German Reformed Church

17 The brick church at 404 Market St. is the First Evangelical Lutheran Church and is the other half of the original old Elias Church. This new structure was built by Enoch Miller and J.A. Dempwolf was the architect. The bell tower houses the community clock, placed there by the borough.



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

19 The Herr Memorial Library (500 Market St.) was the Herr family home built in 1925 by Jessie, Jane and Mabel Herr. It was built in the Georgian Revival tradition, using yellow brick. In 1944, Jane - the last surviving sister - willed the house with an endowment to Mifflinburg to be used as a library.



Herr Family Home



Commercial Inn (Buffalo Valley Inn)

20 The Buffalo Valley Inn (500 Chestnut St) was built by William Young in 1860 as the Commercial Inn. Young was an entrepreneur who started the first bank in town, but often held meetings without the other shareholders.

21 One of those shareholders was Henry Gast Wolf, who moved to town to work for his uncle Henry Gast. H.G. Wolf, opened his own store (415-419 Chestnut St.) and was a founding member of Mifflinburg's first three banks, including Mifflinburg Bank & Trust which is still in business.



Band Box Theater: exterior (left) and interior (right)

22 In 1904, the first “palace” to show movies opened in Mifflinburg. Within a few years Fish and Kitty Romig bought the business and moved it to 424 Chestnut Street. The Romigs owned the Lyric until 1926, when successive owners changed the name until it closed permanently in 1956.



1915 View Looking East from Fifth Street. Lyric Theatre is to the left.

23 A few doors down was the home of the town's first newspaper, the Mifflinburg Telegraph; the post office; and the Mary Koons Store. The Mary Koons Store was a staple of 20th century Mifflinburg.

24 When William Brown began making carriages, he started in the backyard of his property on Market Street. He built a large four story building along the railroad tracks and made horse drawn vehicles there until 1926. When the building was sold to the Sterling Brothers in 1938, they had to remove the top two floors for their silk spinning mill.



William Brown Carriage Works

25 John Gutelius began as a millwright, a carpenter who made ‘fancy’ woodwork. He then went to work for his younger brother, Jacob to learn the carriage trade. John opened his own shop in 1875 and eventually was recognized as the third largest company in town. After John's death, his son David Frederick Gutelius ran the company. After David's death, another of John's sons, John Wesley, ran the company until they closed in 1925.



John Gutelius

26 Jacob Gutelius learned buggy making from George Swentzel, the first buggy maker in Mifflinburg. After Swentzel moved west, Jacob Gutelius opened his own shop along Third Street. He was still making new buggies when he died in 1897. His son Robert was a partner in the Mifflinburg Buggy Company, the largest company in town.



Jacob Gutelius

Photos courtesy of Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, MHRA & Union County Historical Society.