



A WALKING TOUR OF ITS HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE



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This walking tour brochure was compiled by Christina Rieth, AmeriCorps Volunteer at Wheeling Heritage.

EARLY HISTORY OF WARWOOD

Thomas Glenn is the first known owner of the land; he bequeathed the land to his son, William, sometime before 1795. Farmers initially settled in the region north of Wheeling for its rich, fertile soil.

Farmland in Warwood made way to industrial and residential development at the turn of the century; the neighborhood is named after Henry Warwood, who founded the Warwood Tool Company in 1854 in Martins Ferry. The company was relocated to what is now Warwood in 1907.

The area was originally divided into three sections: Loveland, which runs from the Centre Foundry to N. 6th St., Richland, which goes from N. 6th St. to N. 23rd St., and Glenova, which extends from N. 23rd St. to the Pike Island Lock and Dam.

Foreseeing the potential of Warwood's future, R. J. McCullagh founded the Warwood Land Company in 1903. The company sold the lots at a very low price at the time, starting at \$300 each. The land was far less susceptible to floods than other parts of Wheeling, and streetcars ran between Warwood and Wheeling every 15 minutes, which became excellent selling points for prospective residents. Working-class families who came to the area sought employment at the industrial plants and built their residences, businesses, and churches nearby. Coal mines were abundant in Warwood, and an oil boom hit Warwood in 1911.

Warwood became an incorporated community on May 26, 1911, and as part of the "Wheeling Greater Movement," Wheeling annexed the Warwood neighborhood in 1919.



1 CENTRE FOUNDRY
74 Warwood Avenue

The history of the foundry goes back to 1840, when James and H. Andrew Baggs founded the Baggs Foundry in Ohio County, Virginia, at 2011 Main Street. In 1855, John Young and two brothers, Alexander and Charles Cecil, purchased the company and renamed it Cecil Foundry, and in 1860, they changed the name to Centre Foundry. In 1881, it became the first incorporated business in the county. Business flourished while manufacturing nail machines for the steel industry as well as repair parts for steamboats, and by 1923, they had outgrown their facilities and relocated to Warwood. The foundry has stood at its present location since 1923 and continues to produce iron castings for the Ohio Valley.



2 LOCKMASTER'S HOUSES
N. 3rd Street & Richland Avenue

These two Tudor Revival-style houses were built in 1914 and designated for the six appointed lockmasters for the Ohio River Lock & Dam #12. The dam, located near the houses, was completed in 1916 and stood until 1975. Its replacement, the Pike Island Lock & Dam, was completed in 1963 and is located just north of Warwood.



3 LASCH HOUSE
603 Warwood Avenue

The Lasch House stands tall representing one of the earliest families in Warwood. Conrad Lasch, a Wheeling Island resident, was born in 1857 to German-born parents, Jacob Lasch Sr. and Katrine Lasch. He bought land in Glenova (now Warwood) from his brother, Jacob Lasch Jr., on March 6, 1894. His property ran from "the hilltop" to the Ohio River, and from what is now 6th Street to 8th Street. Conrad Lasch and his wife, Julia Klebe Lasch, built their home and raised their eight children at what is now 603 Warwood Avenue. His land west of Warwood Avenue was used for farming, while the rest was used for pastures. His son, Albert Lasch, was a notable florist in Warwood and ran his business on the property from 1907 to 1973.



4 WARWOOD ARMATURE REPAIR
128 N. 7th Street

In 1927, Raymond Thalman and Lawrence Schmitt partnered and began a business of rewinding armatures for the coal mines in the region. They set up shop in the garage in the back of Thalman's home at 431 Hazlett Avenue in Warwood. By 1932, they expanded their business to 128 N. 7th Street. As the company flourished, they erected their sales division building at 623 River Rd. in 1969.



5 WHEELING STAMPING COMPANY
N. 6th Street & Hazlett Avenue

Archibald Woods Paull founded the company on Water Street as the Nail City Lantern Company in 1877. The company initially manufactured double globe lanterns in a four-story brick factory in downtown Wheeling. When Archibald Woods Paull II took over in 1897, he renamed the company as the "Wheeling Stamping Company" and shifted to kerosene lanterns and lamp burners. In 1957, Wheeling Stamping Company moved to its present location in Warwood. Throughout its history, the Wheeling Stamping Company manufactured metal stampings, hubcaps for Ford vehicles, mess kits during World War I, canteen caps during World War II, and plastic bottles. Through the early 1990s, the factory was the largest producer of collapsible tubes in the United States. Today, the building holds three companies: Warwood Armature, Continental Ventures LLC, and Primedia Products. The facility itself was built in 1912 and was previously home to the Continental Can Company and the Packer Trucking Company.



6 GEORGE DORSCH HOUSE
1100 Warwood Avenue

Built in 1918, this beautiful, stately red brick house belonged to one of the first families in Warwood. In 1864, Casper and George Dorsch purchased 130 acres in Warwood that extended from the top of the hill to the Ohio River, to 13th Street, to the alley between 10th and 11th streets. They farmed the land until it was turned into city lots. Casper's palatial white brick house, built around the same time, stood next door until 1969 when it was razed and replaced with the Garden Park Terrace apartments the following year. These two homes were "the first show places of grandeur in Warwood." Each home was constructed to complement the beauty of the land, with the tree-covered hill as its backdrop.



7 WHEELING WATER WORKS 1500 Richland Avenue

Several years after annexing Warwood, Wheeling city officials sought to integrate the neighborhood further and obtain a higher quality water. According to a Wheeling News-Register article from 1935, Warwood was listed as a town with

the purest water in the country. So in 1925, the water works treatment plant was relocated from River Road to Warwood. The Art Deco filtration plant and pumping station (pictured) were designed by Pittsburgh's J.N. Chester Engineers. The filtration plant (not pictured) is slated for demolition in 2017.



8 GARDEN PARK Warwood Avenue (Between Viking Drive and Osage Lane)

The park's name is anything but generic: it is named after the Garden family, one of the earliest

families in Warwood. David Garden came to the region from Scotland in 1816 and built his farmhouse near Glenn's Run. He established a tannery in North Wheeling with his son, Alexander. By David's death in 1886, the Garden family owned the majority of the land in the region. By the early 1900s, much of the land was sold off to the Warwood Land Company for development, but the City of Wheeling purchased this plot from the family in 1927 specifically for a park.



9 CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH 1508 Warwood Avenue

The church was completed in 1923. It was designed by renowned Pittsburgh architect Edward Weber, who also built the Cathedral of St. Joseph in East Wheeling and several other medieval-style

churches across West Virginia. A Wheeling News-Register article from 1924 states, "The simple beauty of the Church exterior is achieved by the strict adherence to the old Lombardic type of architecture."

The Corpus Christi School at 1506 Warwood Avenue was built the same year as the church, while the rectory at 1512 Warwood Avenue was constructed in the Colonial Revival style in 1920.



10 WARWOOD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (Warwood Presbyterian Church) 1608 Warwood Avenue

The church was originally built for the Warwood Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation, which had previously met at the Center Warwood School

(now Warwood Town Centre) next door, beginning in 1913. The Lutheran church closed in 1998, and the Warwood Presbyterian Church moved here shortly after.

This church was completed in 1917 for about \$18,000. It was designed in the Gothic Revival style by West Virginia architect George Ebeling. The church boasts a large, beautiful Gethsemane window, which was donated by Carl Eberts, a notable banker at the (now defunct) Bank of Warwood.



11 WARWOOD FIRE STATION 1609 Warwood Avenue

The Neo-Classical fire station was built in 1923 by local architect Millard Fillmore Giesey and builder John W. Ray, at the cost of \$15,445. It has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1995. On May 23, 1923, R.J. McCullagh

of the Warwood Land Company dedicated the fire station at its grand opening; there were reportedly over 6,000 attendees at the parade and ceremony. Today it is home to Fitzsimmons Law Offices.



12 WARWOOD HIGH SCHOOL (Warwood Town Centre) 1610 Warwood Avenue

Built in the Gothic Revival style, the Richland District High School opened its doors in 1918. The name changed to Warwood High School in 1920, and in 1975, when Wheeling consolidated the

city's high schools, Warwood High School formally closed. Office spaces now occupy the building.



13 WARWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH N. 17th Street & Richland Avenue

The oldest standing church in Warwood was built in 1909. Many Warwood residents gathered to make or donate materials for the church, but much of the work was done by John L. Giesey, the brother of architect Millard Fillmore Giesey and a contractor in Wheeling. The bell in front was once

used at the original Warwood Tool Company location in Martins Ferry to call men into work. It was donated to the church during its construction.



14 THE HOME FOR AGED MEN (The Home for Men) 1700 Warwood Avenue

The Home for Men is the last building designed by Frederick Faris, the "dean of Wheeling architects." In fact, Faris died two years before the building's construction was completed. John M. Brown

of the Warwood Land Company left \$150,000 in his will for its construction. It was finalized in 1929 at the cost of \$105,000. Requirements for prospective tenants at the time were that they had to be men, 65 years of age or older, Protestant, and of some value to the community.



15 JOHN A. MOORE HOUSE 142 N. 18th Street

To prepare for the factory's relocation, the Warwood Tool Company built several company homes in 1904 on N. 18th Street and N. 19th Street, including this one. The first person to live in this Dutch Colonial Revival-style house was John A.

Moore, who was the secretary (and later manager) of the company. Two additional houses were built for J.W. Bumgartner, the company's superintendent, and Fred Reese, the manager of the forge shop; the last house was built as a company office.



16 WARWOOD TOOL COMPANY Bottom of N. 19th Street

Although Warwood's story and namesake begins here, Henry Warwood retired in 1892 and never oversaw the factory's relocation to West Virginia. It was not until 1907, under the ownership of B. Walker Peterson, that Warwood Tool moved to its

current location. Before the construction of the current facility, the site was home to Eberts family, one of the earliest families in Warwood.

Using traditional heating and forging processes, the Warwood Tool Company produces the same heavy duty tools today as they did in 1907, which are finished with their signature "Warwood Blue" handle.



17 DOWLER-SCHREYER HOUSE 1900 Warwood Avenue

The Queen Anne home was constructed in 1906 by Wheeling architect Joseph Leiner for Charles H. Dowler and his family. Dowler was a prominent figure in Warwood, having served as an owner of the Warwood Land Company, the second mayor

of Warwood, city manager, and the second CEO of the First Bank of Warwood.

The home features 18 rooms, a four-story turret, interior oak detailing, a 500 square-foot wraparound veranda with two porches, forty-six windows, and a 1 1/2-story carriage house. The maple tree and four sycamores were planted on the property in 1907 and protect the house from heat and cold. The retaining wall was built in 1928 when the city widened Warwood Avenue for two lane traffic.



18 STEBER HOUSE 2002 Warwood Avenue

This Queen Anne house was the childhood home for Eleanor Steber, a world-renowned opera singer at the Metropolitan Opera. Born in 1914 on 33rd and Eoff Street, her family moved to Warwood

when her father, William Steber, became president at the Bank of Warwood. After graduating from Warwood High School and Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, she starred at the Met in New York City. As a soprano, she gave over 400 performances, including 50 lead roles, over 22 years. She died in 1990 and is buried at Wheeling's Greenwood Cemetery.



19 STENGER-HOWLEY HOUSE 112 N. 21st Street

Super Bowl V MVP Chuck Howley grew up right here in Warwood! He was born in 1936 and lived at this beautiful Colonial Revival home. The house was built in 1915 by Michael Stenger, whose father was one of the first to settle in Warwood. Michael

and his wife, Anna Martin Stenger, moved to 23rd and Hess shortly after the house's completion.

Howley garnered national attention as a linebacker for the Chicago Bears and Dallas Cowboys, but he began his football career at Warwood High School and West Virginia University. He remains the only athlete in WVU history to letter in five sports, and the only player awarded the Super Bowl MVP from the losing team.



20 T.G. CUPP & SONS 98 N. 22nd Street

Theodore Gabriel Cupp started the T.G. Cupp Company, a roofing & metal business, in Warwood around 1917. In 1922, after his son Edwin entered the business, he renamed the company as T.G. Cupp & Sons. He and his wife lived at 2508 Vance

Avenue, while his son lived next door at 2506 Vance Avenue. Before the company relocated to 55 N. 28th Street, they spent several decades at this facility, formerly the site of the Montiegeel Dye Works building.



21 WARWOOD TRANSFER COMPANY (Columbia Sales, Inc.) 2233 Warwood Avenue

In 1908, the company was founded as the "Warwood Express" by Wiley Wayne Kenamond. He set up shop at the rear of the office at 133 N. 21st St., with a wagon shed and stables at the corner

of N. 22nd St. and Richland Ave. Using horse-drawn wagons or sleds, he began his business hauling household goods, furnishing horses, and Teamster drivers to the U.S. government engineers who were building the Ohio River Lock & Dam #12 in Warwood. He also transported supplies to the oil wells in Warwood.



22 CONEY ISLAND (Lower Twin Sisters Island) Wheeling Heritage Trail & 24th Street

Warwood's earliest recorded history begins here: in October 1770, George Washington records in his diary that he encamped at "the

lower point of some Islands which stand contiguous to each other," which historians recognize as this island. After traveling further down the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers, he returned to the island again the following month.

Before 1905, there had been a café and dancing pavilion on the island. An amusement park was completed in 1905 by the Wheeling Amusement Company at the cost of \$20,000. Over 6,000 people came to the island for its grand opening on June 10. Coney Island featured a roller coaster, a Ferris wheel, a stadium that fit 2500 patrons, a German beer garden, camel rides, and Vaudeville shows. The amusement park was abandoned in 1907 after a history of floods.



23 ACKERMANN PLANT (Bethlehem Gear & Machine) 2725 Warwood Avenue

This factory has changed hands several times, but it has consistently provided employment for greater Warwood residents. In 1930, the Wheeling

Steel Company expanded to Warwood and built the Ackermann plant, where they mostly made pressed steel stampings and innovative steel shipping containers known as "band boxes." From 1964 to 1986, Blaw-Knox used the facility as an iron roll foundry. Since 1990, the Bethlehem Gear & Machine Company (of the Mull Group) has produced a variety of gears.