**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 1915.

**CENTRE FOUNDRY**
74 Warwood Avenue

The history of the foundry goes back to 1840, when James and H. Andrews opened the Regis 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 finished 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.

**LOCKMASTER’S HOUSES**
N. 3rd Street & Richland Avenue

These two Tudor Revival-style houses were built in 1910 and designated for the six appointed lockmasters for the Ohio River Lock & Dam #1. The dam, located near the house, was completed in 1910 and stood until 1975. Its replacement, the Pike Island Lock & Dam, was completed in 1963 and is located just north of Warwood.
THE SIMPLE BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH EXTERIOR IS ACHIEVED BY THE STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE OLD LOMBARDIC TYPE OF ARCHITECTURE.

WHEELING FIRE STATION
1609 Warwood Avenue
The Neo-Classical fire station was built in 1923 by local architect Millard Fillmore Giesey and builder J. W. Hay, at the cost of $15,445. It has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1991. 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 Fitchissippi Law Offices.

WARWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
(Warwood Town Centre)
1630 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 1977, when Wheeling consolidated the city’s high schools, Warwood High School formally closed. Office spaces now occupy the building.

WARWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
N. 17th Street & Richmond Avenue
The oldest standing church in Warwood was built in 1900. 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 to 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.

THE HOME FOR AGED MEN
(The Home for Men)
1700 Warwood Avenue
The Home for Men is the last building designed by Architect H. Dowler and his family. Dowler was a prominent figure in Warwood, having served as overseer of the Warwood Land Company, the second mayor of Warwood, city manager, and the second CEO of the First Bank of Warwood.

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 1873. The Lutheran church closed in 1999, and the Warwood Presbyterian Church moved here shortly after.

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. 29th 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. Burgsatter, the company’s superintendent, and Fred Reese, the manager of the forge shop. The last house was built as a company office.

WARWOOD TOOL COMPANY
Bottom of N. 19th Street
Although Warwood’s story and nameake begins here, Henry Warwood retired in 1892 and never mentions the factory’s relocation to West Virginia. It was not until 1907, under the ownership of J. Walker Peterson, that Warwood Tool moved to its current location. Before the construction of the current facility, the site was home to Eberns 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” brand.

DOWLER-SCHREYER HOUSE
1900 Warwood Avenue
The Queen Anne house was constructed in 1906 by Wheeling architect Joseph LeBar for Charles H. Dowler and his family. Dowler was a prominent figure in Warwood, having served as overseer of the Warwood Land Company, the second mayor of Warwood, city manager, and the second CEO of the First Bank of Warwood.

The house features 12 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 remaining wall was built in 1918 when the city widened Warwood Avenue for two-lane traffic.

STEGER 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 Street and Vaudeville shows. The amusement park was abandoned in 1907 after a family of “band boxes.” From 1964 to 1986, Blaw-Knox used the facility as an iron roll foundry.

CONEY ISLAND
Lawuee Street, Island Wheeling Heritage Trail & 24th Street
Warwood’s earliest recorded history begins here: in October 1770, George Washington recorded 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 constructed 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 2000 patrons, a German beer garden, camel rides, and Vaudeville shows. The amusement park was abandoned in 1907 after a history of floods.

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 gear steel stampings and iron castings for shipping containers known as “hard boxes.” From 1944 to 1986, Raw-Knox used the facility as an iron mill foundry. Since 1990, the Bethlehem Gear & Machine Company (a.k.a. the G&K Group) has produced a variety of gears.