

Historic

SMETHPORT
Mansion District
Walking Tour



McKean County, Pennsylvania

Welcome to Smethport



Nestled in the hills of the Pennsylvania Wilds within McKean County, Smethport offers a glimpse of its opulent past to visitors. Take your time, allow yourself to experience the charms of Smethport's Gilded Era. Breathe in the country air.

Enjoy your self-guided walking tour of Smethport's Mansion District. Tour the Old Jail Museum, allow time to visit the quaint shops and restaurants along Main Street. Experience another way of life.

Victorian Smethport

Scenic, Gilded Era Smethport, almost secretly tucked away along U.S. Route 6 where the Nunundah Valley and Marvin Creek Valley converge, was first surveyed by Dutch land surveyors in 1807 who selected it as northwest Pennsylvania's most perfect town site.

Upon entering this village, the hills seem to wrap luxuriously around you and propel you into another era of time and lifestyle. Hamlin Lake, Smethport's crown jewel located in the center of the village, invites visitors to picnic, fish and canoe. The hillsides surrounding the village provide scenic hiking trails along with excellent winter trails for snowmobiling.

1880s: Birth of the Smethport Mansion District

Several factors would propel Smethport into the forefront of the Pennsylvania Wilds. The combination of vast lumber reserves, oil reserves, and railroads beginning in the 1870s caused McKean County's economy to skyrocket. Vast amounts of money flowed into Smethport, the governmental seat and financial center of the county. By the 1880s Smethport's Mansion District was in full construction.



West Main Street

1

McKean County Courthouse & Bucktail Civil War Monument

500 West Main Street

The Grand Army of the Republic Monument designed and erected in 1886 by the St. Johnsbury Granite Company, St. Johnsbury, Vermont, pays tribute to the Bucktail Regiment which was formed at this very location in April 1861 and gained national fame in the bloody battles of the American Civil War.

2



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

602 West Main Street
Built 1891
English Gothic

Henry Hamlin hired already nationally famous William Halsey Wood to design the magnificent English Gothic church which was completed in 1892. Most owners of the homes in the mansion district were active members of this church at the time of its construction.

3



John Forrest Mansion

620 West Main Street
Built 1880
Victorian Stick

John & Mary Forrest, active members of the St. Luke's congregation completed their Victorian Stick home in 1880. In 1877, John came to Smethport and entered the law and land office of Bryon Delano Hamlin. John & Mary Hamlin, daughter of Byron Delano and Harriet (Holmes) Hamlin, were married in 1878.

4



Byron Delano Hamlin Mansion

619 West Main Street
Built 1856
Italianate

State Senator Byron Delano Hamlin, railroad and land entrepreneur and his wife Harriet Holmes Hamlin, broke ground on their iconic Italianate mansion in 1856. In 1874 Byron began the McKean & Buffalo Railroad to haul coal for the Buffalo Coal Company which opened up the mineral rich frontiers of the Allegheny Plateau especially for the coal-rich deposits in the Clermont area.

5



Charles Sartwell Mansion

708 West Main Street
Built 1848
Eclectic

The Charles Sartwell home was designed by his brother and renowned Smethport architect-builder Solomon Sartwell. Over the years the home has under gone extensive renovations transforming it from a Greek Revival to a 1890s style Victorian Eclectic. In 1910 Smethport magazine tycoon, Scott F. Redfield, publisher of *The Boys Magazine*, a predecessor of *Boy's Life Magazine*, purchased the mansion.

6



State Senator H.H. Redfield Mansion

703 West Main Street
Built 1900
Victorian Queen Anne

Entrepreneurial genius State Senator Horace Hamlin Redfield, grandson of Byron D. Hamlin, served in a myriad of business interests including president and director of numerous regional and state banks, president of the McKean County Refining Company, a director of the Great Southern Lumber Company of Bogalusa, Louisiana, vice-president and director of the New Orleans Great Northern Railroad, as well as a director of the Coudersport & Port Allegany Railroad. In 1900, he married into the noted McCoy family, early pioneers of Smethport.

7



Judge Joseph Bouton Mansion

707 West Main Street
Built 1905
Victorian Queen Anne

Innovative Judge Joseph Bouton served with distinction and gained wide recognition as McKean County President Judge for 31 years. His mansion featured Ridgway, Pa., Hyde & Murphy golden oak woodwork with wall panels of leather, imitation elephant skin, and hand painted designs.

8



W.J. Milliken Residence

716 West Main Street
Circa 1872
Colonial Revival

The first known owner of the home was attorney W.J. Milliken. The residence overlooked the original East-West Road. In addition to having a private practice, Milliken served as District Attorney, school superintendent, writer, and printers devil. This home has recently been restored with historically accurate paint colors.

11



Delano R. Hamlin Mansion

820 West Main Street
Built 1881
Victorian Queen Anne

Byron Hamlin's only son, Delano R. Hamlin, was a partner in his father's law and land business when his house was built in 1881. Delano was a prominent lawyer and financier who was noted for his public spirit.

9



Henry Hamlin Mansion

808 West Main Street
Circa 1860
Victorian Italianate

Innovative Henry Hamlin, nephew of Byron Hamlin commenced banking in 1863 in what would become Hamlin Bank and Trust Company. In 1892 Henry was reported to be the wealthiest private banker in the United States. Henry's financial vision would transform the future of Smethport.

12



John C. Hamlin Residence

904 West Main Street
Circa 1878
Colonial Revival

John was the younger brother of Henry Hamlin and was a merchant who opened the first store exclusively for hardware in 1865. He also served as Senior Warden of the Episcopal Church where he taught Sunday school for many years.

10



Original A.N. Taylor/ D.C. Young Mansion

807 West Main Street
Circa 1860
Italianate

Successful pioneer merchant A.N. Taylor, met an untimely death in 1876 after falling off the home's rear porch. His son-in-law, Dewitt Clinton Young, succeeded him in business and acquired the family home, which was noted for having a central heating system and multiple indoor bathrooms with hot and cold running water.

13



McCandless Mansion

905 West Main Street
Built 1891
Architect, E.N. Unruh
(Solomon Dresser
mansion, Bradford, 1902)
Victorian Queen Anne

John H. McCandless, who married Henry Hamlin's daughter Emma, served as the priest of St. Luke's Episcopal Church when his mansion was built in 1891. Natural gas provided heat and light while fancy cherry and golden oak woodwork wrapped the interior walls. The house was greatly enlarged in 1903 to appear more prominent next to her brother Orlo's house, next door.



14

Orlo J. Hamlin Mansion

911 West Main Street
Built 1902
Victorian Queen Anne

Henry Hamlin built this home as a wedding gift for his only son, Orlo, and new bride Mirabel Folger from Geneva, New York. Orlo took over the bank his father started, the Hamlin Bank and Trust Company. Orlo's house is encased in superb hand carved woodwork and other furnishings throughout the interior.



17

Delano R. Hamlin First Residence

1109 West Main Street
Circa 1875
Victorian Queen Anne

1871 was a big year for Delano Hamlin. Delano married Eugenia McCoy, became a partner in his father Byron's law firm, and built this impressive home, the first home for the newly wedded couple. In 1880 Delano and Eugenia completed their second mansion and moved to 820 West Main Street.



15

Rose Mansion

916 West Main Street
Circa 1889
Victorian Stick

Robert Rose arrived in Smethport in 1873 and married Laena Hamlin, another daughter of Henry. Robert served as attorney and agent for the Bingham land estate, who were the original owners of most of early McKean County. Rose served as attorney for the McKean County Commissioners. He was also an active businessman, financier and oil trader when, in 1890, they moved to Binghamton, New York.



18

Christian Herzog Residence

1199 West Main Street
Circa 1905
Victorian Queen Anne

Hamlin Lake gristmill owner Cyrus Barrett sold the lot where this home stands to attorney and judge Thomas Morrison in 1905 which was subsequently purchased by Christian Herzog. Electric wiring on ceramic insulators was found throughout the house. This was typical of homes built about that time in anticipation of electricity which finally arrived in Smethport in 1922.



16

R.E. Burdick Residence

1002 West Main Street
Circa 1900
Architect, E. N. Unruh
Victorian Queen Anne

Hamlin Bank officer Ralph E. Burdick was an early amateur photographer and early automotive owner in Smethport. Mr. Burdick was also active with industrial, real estate and philanthropic endeavors.



19

Chester King Residence

1225 West N. Main Street
Circa 1881
Victorian Italianate

The home was constructed about 1881 by Smethport resident Chester King. The low pitched roof and emphatic eaves supported by corbels are classic examples of Victorian Italianate architecture.

*Reverse direction and travel to Byron Street.
Proceed up the hill to King Street, and turn right.*

King Street

David Sterrit/ John Nevin Apple Mansion

802 West King Street
Built 1872
Victorian Stick

Noted Smethport attorney, David Sterrit's home was built in 1872. The property changed hands several times until bought by Attorney John N. Apple in 1891 and has since remained in the Apple family. The elegant dining room has eight doors framed in golden oak and is decorated with wainscoting of the same pattern.



20

21



C.D. Comes Mansion

608 West King Street
Built 1900
Victorian Queen Anne

Lumber magnet C.D. Comes built this outstanding mansion from his fortunes. He had always lived with his parents until the completion of this very fine home. He and his father operated a large sawmill in Keating Township where he milled four million feet of lumber in 1890, along with 2,500 cords of hemlock bark.

United Methodist Church

Corner of Church &
King Street
Built 1838
Architect, Solomon Sartwell
Greek Revival

The United Methodist Church, originally the Episcopal-Methodist Church, is the oldest church in Smethport. Although the steeple has been rebuilt and reinterpreted at least three times in its 170 year history, much of the original structure remains the same.



22



The Upper Tavern

407 Church Street
Circa 1830
Early Tavern &
Boarding House

One of Smethport's early, colorful businesses was the celebrated "Upper Tavern". Parties and regular "pub" gatherings helped establish the Upper Tavern in early Smethport history. Now a private home, the structure looks nearly identical to the original tavern.

24



McKean County Jail Building

502 West King Street
Built 1875
Old Jail Museum,
McKean County
Historical Society

This structure replaced an earlier frame construction jail that was due east of the courthouse. Since 2003 the Old McKean County Jail has served as the headquarters and museum for the McKean County Historical Society.

Sheriff Roswell Sartwell Mansion

412 West King Street
Circa 1880
Victorian Italianate

McKean County Sheriff Roswell Sartwell built this outstanding residence following the death of his father, Solomon Sartwell, Smethport pioneer and architect who had also served as sheriff for many years.



25

26



Brownell Mansion

309 State Street
Circa 1900
Victorian Queen Anne

Brownell family, pioneer merchants of Smethport built this mansion during the 1890s to replace their original homestead. The original Brownell General Store, the oldest surviving commercial building in Smethport, is located at 420 West Main Street below the Brownell residence.

West Green Street



27

Taylor Residence

402 West Green Street
Built 1877
Victorian Gothic

The Taylors were wealthy pioneer merchants that had multiple business interests throughout early Smethport. In 1902 popular former County Sheriff William B. Clarke purchased the property. Later the home was the residence of Dr. Ralph Hockenberry.



28

F.D. Gallup Mansion

306 West Green Street
Circa 1902
Edwardian

Frederick Gallup was an attorney with the firm, Gallup, Potter and Gallup. Ernest and Marion Potter bought the house in the early 1920s. Mr. Potter also engaged in various business interests including oil and gas production.



29

W.D. Gallup Mansion

302 West Green Street
Built 1875
Victorian Queen Anne

Frederick Gallup's father, W.D. Gallup, lived just east of his son. His family were early Connecticut pioneers that settled in Norwich in 1815 via canoe on Potato Creek. He started his successful business merchant career as a clerk in Henry Hamlin's store. He served as a commissioner and treasurer for McKean County.

Franklin-King Street



30

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church

Corner of Franklin & Main
Built 1906
Romanesque

Just before Christmas, 1904 a tragic fire totally destroyed the original 1876 wooden sanctuary. The present handsome brick structure was consecrated in 1907. In 2005 extensive architectural renovations were completed. The church currently has Smethport's largest active congregation.

Franklin-Main Street



31

Robert King Residence

110 West Main Street
Circa 1859
Georgian-Italianate

Robert King was the direct descendant of Francis King, the surveyor who laid out Smethport in the early 1800s. This residence features massive wooden beams fastened with wooden stakes. A mapmaker and surveyor, Mr. King drew maps in his office facing Union Street immediately behind the house.



32

Charles McKean Mansion

102 West Main Street
Built 1904
Colonial Revival

Charles McKean was a wealthy lumberman and owner of McKean County's only natural gas company at that time. He spent his early life working on the Marvin Creek area farm of his father who was one of the areas first pioneers. The interior of his home was decorated by designers from Buffalo, New York. McKean also served as a Pennsylvania legislator.

History Trail

Other Historical Properties



William A. Williams

102 East Main Street
One of Smethport's Earliest Homes
Built 1828
Greek Revival

Smethport pioneer William A. Williams built this home on property he purchased

in 1811 and replaced his original log cabin in 1828.



1B

Hamlin Lake

Originally created in 1823 by Smethport entrepreneur John Applebee to power an up-and-down saw, the lake has been a central point for Smethport from its earliest days. Later, the mill pond was used to store large quantities of hemlock

logs waiting to be cut in the huge Gifford Sawmill.



1C

William Specht Residence

307 South Mechanic Street
Built 1872
Victorian Italianate

German immigrant, William Specht, arrived in Smethport in 1851 and worked as a cabinet and coffin maker. He married

Elizabeth Heineman in 1854 and partnered with his half brother Carl Sasse in 1879 to open a fine furniture store and funeral parlor at 133 West Main Street.



1D

Dr. S. D. Freeman Residence

17 Rosehill Avenue
Built 1891
Colonial Revival

Dr. Sylvanus Freeman gained fame as a surgeon for the Bucktail Regiment during the Civil War in 1861.

Dr. Freeman became personal friends with General U. S. Grant and in 1862 was appointed chief surgeon of the United States Volunteers.



1E

Medbury House—Smethport's Underground Railroad Station

606 East Main Street
Circa 1828
Architect, Solomon Sartwell
Greek Revival

Listed in the files of the Historic American

Buildings survey of the Library of Congress, it is one of Smethport's earliest residences and was situated near McCoy's Corners on the old East-West Highway that was opened through McKean County in 1828.



SMETHPORT Pennsylvania

Smethport's Mansion District's self-guided walking tour offers a short history of over 30 architectural gems constructed during the 1800s.



HAMLIN LAKE

Hamlin Lake is located in the center of the village, visitors can enjoy fishing, kayaking, birding, or a shoreline stroll.

OLD JAIL MUSEUM

Peek into the past at the Old Jail Museum to learn about the region's early pioneers and lumber barons. Tour their haunted dungeon.



WHERE TO STAY

Experience the opulence! Overnight at the Mansion District Inn or Blackberry Inn.



HISTORIC MCKEAN COUNTY COLLECTIBLE PIN TRAIL

Each of 10 historic sites within McKean County offers a unique collectible pin for purchase at their location along the trail.

VisitANF.com

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST
ANF
VISITORS BUREAU
TRAIL CENTRAL™

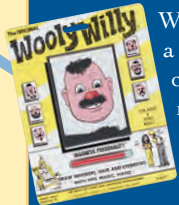
Historic SMETHPORT Mansion District

Walking Tour

Smethport
Firsts, Famous
&
Fun Facts:



Many of the Smethport Mansions were built as wedding gifts.



Woolly Willy, a popular children's magnetic toy, was invented in Smethport.

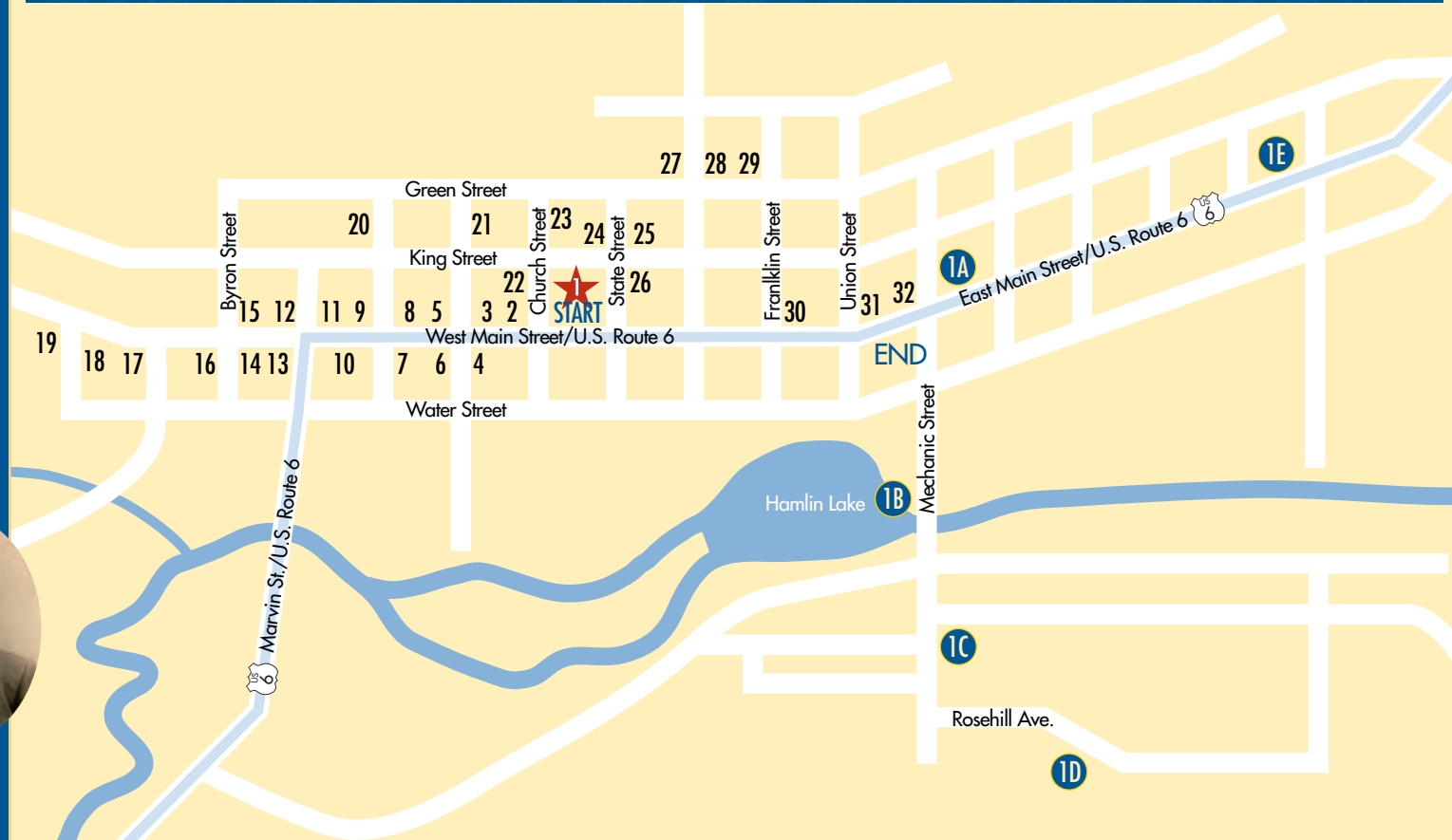
In 1894, then resident, Henry Hamlin was the wealthiest private banker in the U.S.



The first automated bowling pin setter was invented in Smethport in 1906.



In 1861, the famous American Civil War Bucktail Regiment was formed in Smethport.

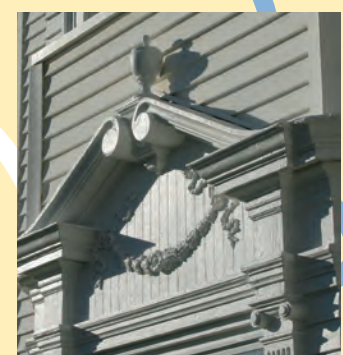


- ★ McKean County Courthouse and Bucktail Civil War Monument
500 West Main Street
- 2 St. Luke's Episcopal Church
602 West Main Street
- 3 John Forrest Mansion
620 West Main Street
- 4 Byron Delano Hamlin Mansion
619 West Main Street
- 5 Charles Sartwell Mansion
708 West Main Street
- 6 State Senator H.H. Redfield Mansion
703 West Main Street
- 7 Judge Joseph Bouton Mansion
707 West Main Street
- 8 W.J. Milliken Residence
716 West Main Street

- 9 Henry Hamlin Mansion
808 West Main Street
- 10 Taylor/Young Mansion
807 West Main Street
- 11 Delano R. Hamlin Mansion
820 West Main Street
- 12 John C. Hamlin Residence
904 West Main Street
- 13 McCandless Mansion
905 West Main Street
- 14 Orlo J. Hamlin Mansion
911 West Main Street
- 15 Rose Mansion
916 West Main Street
- 16 R.E. Burdick Residence
1002 West Main Street

- 17 Delano R. Hamlin-First Residence
1109 West Main Street
- 18 Christian Herzog Residence
1199 West Main Street
- 19 Chester King Residence
1225 West North Main Street
- 20 David Sterritt/John Nevin Apple
802 West King Street
- 21 C.D. Comes Mansion
608 West King Street
- 22 United Methodist Church
- 23 The Upper Tavern
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- 24 McKean County Jail Building
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Travel Safely. Follow CDC Guidelines.

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- 1B Hamlin Lake
- 1C William Specht Residence
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- 1D Dr. S.D. Freeman Residence
17 Rosehill Avenue
- 1E Medbury House & Underground Railroad Station
606 East Main Street

For Additional Information:

smethportpa.org
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