

# historic

S T R O U D S B U R G

## A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA'S ARCHITECTURE

### Welcome to Stroudsburg

The borough of Stroudsburg is located at the confluence of the Pocono, McMichael and Brodhead creeks. Fort Hamilton, at the site of present-day Stroudsburg, was one of a line of forts built in the middle of the 18th century by the Pennsylvania government to protect settlers from Indian attacks. The area's first white inhabitant, Daniel Brodhead, settled in about 1735, but his Dansbury Mission was attacked and destroyed by local Indians in 1755.

Five years later, in 1760, Jacob Stroud, a former indentured servant, settled on land along the three creeks, the flow of which later powered his gristmills and sawmills. After another Indian attack -- the bloody Wyoming Valley Massacre of 1778 -- Stroud built a stockade around his house and large land holdings. The Stroud compound became known as Fort Penn, located on what is today the 500 block of Main Street.

When Stroud died in 1806, his son, Daniel, inherited the land that later became Stroudsburg. He laid out streets named for his relatives: Ann, Elizabeth, Sarah, Franklin, Jacob and William. Lots sold quickly and Stroudsburg was incorporated in 1815. Daniel Stroud's donation of land to religious organizations attracted Presbyterians, Methodists and Quakers, all of whom established houses of worship here in the early 19th century.

In 1836, Stroudsburg was chosen as the seat of the newly formed Monroe County and became the county's leading market town. The borough grew steadily throughout the 18th century as lumber mills, tanneries, textile mills, railroads and eventually vacationers contributed to the area's economy.

The region has seen great changes in the 20th century. With many of the older industries gone, Stroudsburg and the Poconos now rely on an almost exclusively tourist-based economy. Reminders of our history exist in Stroudsburg's historic architecture and surrounding landscapes, from terra cotta panels that grace many of downtown's late 19th century buildings, to slate sidewalks, to unexpected glimpses of water and hills.

This walking tour is intended to guide you on your own discovery of our historic treasures. At a leisurely pace, this is about a 60-minute walk. To make the walk shorter, focus on just the National Register sites and local landmarks. Enjoy the tour and please respect the privacy of building owners and occupants.

*NOTE: Updated April 2015 from the Historic Stroudsburg Walking Tour originally published by the Monroe County Historical Association and the Jacob Stroud Corporation in 1999.*

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Note: The Academy Hill Historic District, a 19th-century residential neighborhood listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is located just two blocks north of Main Street. You may wish to continue your walking tour of historic Stroudsburg by strolling Sarah, Thomas and Scott Streets.

### ● 1. Stroud Mansion c. 1795

900 Main Street | Monroe County Historical Association



Stroud Mansion, the finest example of Georgian-style architecture in Monroe County, was built circa 1795 by Stroudsburg's founder, Jacob Stroud, a Revolutionary War colonel, for his eldest son, John. The 12-room house, an imposing structure for its time, soon passed to John's brother, Daniel. The property remained in the Stroud family until 1893 and has served as a family home, boarding house, store, and the town library.

Since 1921 it has been home to the Monroe County Historical Association. The Stroud Mansion, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, features such classical details as a symmetrical facade, flat-arch window lintels with pronounced keystones, simulated stone walls and quoins (that accentuate the corners), and tooth-like dentils beneath the cornice.

### ■ 2. 800-804 Main Street c.1890-1910



These buildings, constructed as single family homes, testify to Main Street Stroudsburg's prominence at the beginning of the 20th century.

T.I. Lacey & Son of Binghamton, N.Y., designed the house at 800 Main Street (c. 1890) for Dr. Joseph H. Shull, a local physician and attorney. This house features a two-story front porch in the Stick Style and terra cotta panels on the east facade. *Now The Newman Agency-Farmers Insurance*

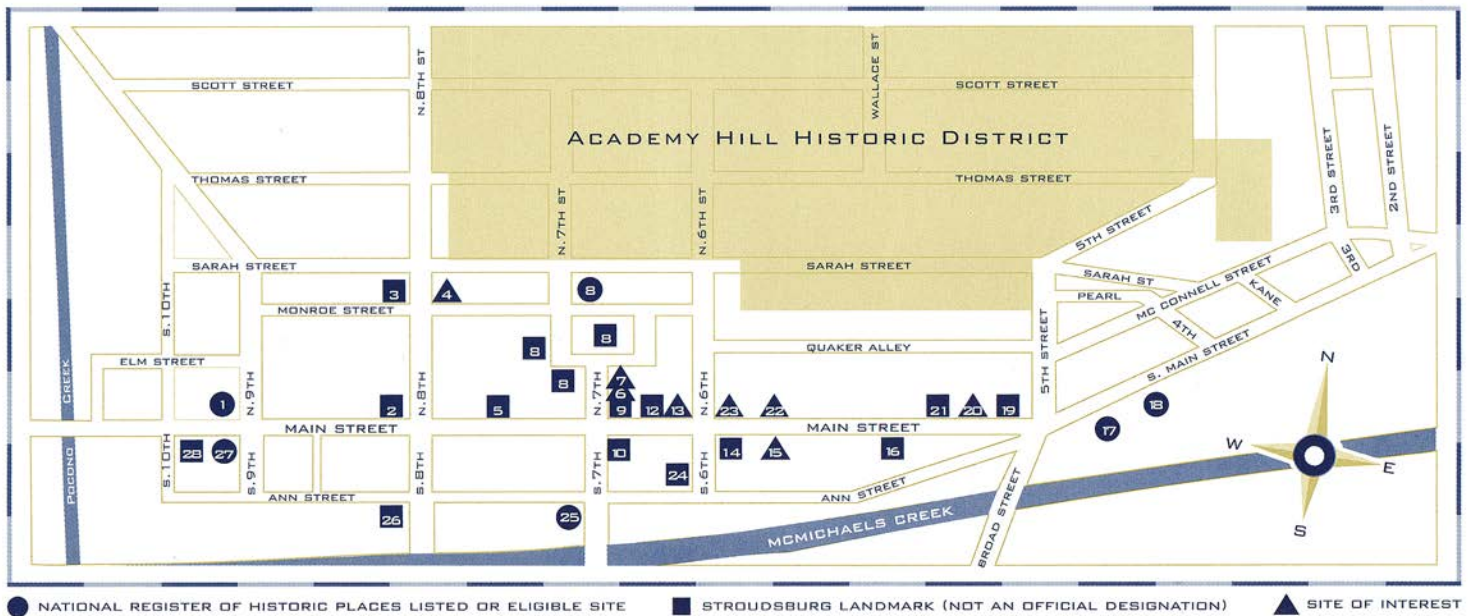
The house at 802 Main Street (c. 1900) was home to Robert Bixler, owner of Bixler Hardware, one of Stroudsburg's foremost businesses. This house contains elements of both the Colonial and Tudor Revival architectural styles, including classical columns and half-timbering (plaster between timbers). *Now Young & Harros LLC.*

The house at 804 Main Street (c. 1910) served as a single-family residence until the 1950s when it was subdivided into apartments. In the 1980s, the buildings at 800 and 802 were converted to law offices, a common fate of large, older Stroudsburg homes.

### ■ 3. 800 Monroe Street c.1810



This early 19th-century townhouse is a good local example of Federal-style architecture, popular from about 1790 to 1820. This townhouse is similar to those built in Philadelphia and New York City during that period. They were often used by country dwellers who spent their winters in town for comfort and convenience. This house features a fanlight above the front door, large windows with flat lintels above, and quarter-circular windows in the gable end.

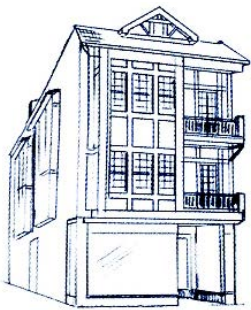


▲ **4. Williams Vinegar Works 1866**  
**100 N. Eighth Street (at Monroe Street)**

*Stroudsburg School of Cosmetology*

In 1866, Jerome S. Williams built this two-story brick building, which housed an apple vinegar works on the first floor until 1870. The building's second floor functioned as Stroudsburg's first public meeting hall and was used for socials, dances, and meetings through the early 20th century. Note the building's unusual brick cornice. *N.*

■ ● **5. Pennsylvania Power and Light Building 1923**  
**740 Main Street | *Caroll & Caroll Booksellers***



This commercial building served as a local office for the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company as early as 1928. In the early 20th-century, a building on this site housed Edinger's Ice Cream Parlor with outdoor seating in a rear garden. By 1963, a stationery store was located here followed by a shoe store in the 1980s and a local bookstore in the 1990s. Note the intact storefront and half-timbering effect on the upper stories typical of the Tudor Revival architectural style popular in the 1920s.

▲ **6. A. Mitchell Palmer Law Office c.1865**  
**10 N. Seventh Street | *Pocono Soap***

Prominent local attorney A. Mitchell Palmer practiced law here in the early 20th century. As President Woodrow Wilson's Attorney General from 1919 to 1920, he became nationally known for the "Palmer Raids" in which alleged foreign radicals were arrested, questioned, and in some cases, deported for "suspicious" activities. Palmer's home, at 712 Thomas Street, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

▲ **7. Shull & Shull Law Offices Mid 19th century**  
**22 N. Seventh Street | *Universal Abstract***

Beginning about 1905, this building was home to the medical and law offices of Dr. Joseph H. Shull. It also housed the law offices of his sons, Claude and Samuel Shull, and later his grandson, Christie Shull. Joseph Shull was one of only a few men in Pennsylvania engaged in both the medical and legal professions at the beginning of the 20th century. Dr. Shull and his son, Samuel, a Monroe County judge, argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1943.

■ ● **8. Courthouse Square c.1829-1890**  
**N. Seventh and Monroe Street**



Courthouse Square is the former site of a brick courthouse built in 1836 when Monroe County was created from Northampton, Pike, and Wayne Counties. In 1890, the old courthouse was demolished and architect T.I. Lacey and local builders R. Schiffer & Sons constructed a new courthouse fronting Monroe Street.

The Richardsonian Romanesque-style building, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, features native sandstone, arched windows, and a clock tower. A 1934 addition at the rear of the 1890 courthouse mimics the 1890 building's original features. The old Assessors Office (NE side of square) was constructed in 1847 as a private home and remodeled in 1911 for county office space.

The old Monroe County jail (SE side of square), constructed in 1875, housed local prisoners for over a century. The Italianate building features paired cornice brackets and molded window hoods. A watering trough was put in place near jail by the Women's Christian Temperance Union in 1907, and was relocated to the NW side of the green in 2013.

A private residence at 31 N. Seventh Street (SW corner of square) was built in 1829 for Sarah Stroud, daughter of town founder Jacob Stroud, and her husband, Dr. James Hollinshead, who donated land for the original courthouse.

The old Engine House of the Phoenix Fire Company (SW side of square), the county's first fire company organized in 1866, features a half-circular window in the gable end and a decorative brick cornice.

The Metzgar Buildings (W and NW side of square), built circa 1870, were once owned by local physicians Thomas and Marshall Metzgar. Note the paired, pointed arch windows in the dormers, a Gothic Revival stylistic detail.

■ **9. Hollinshead Block c.1890**

**636 Main Street | Siamsa Irish Pub**

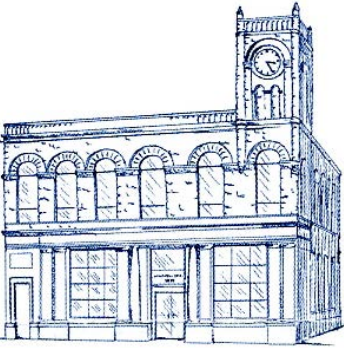


This building has been a cornerstone of downtown for over a century and is pictured in many early Stroudsburg postcards. Known as the “Hollinshead Block,” it housed a grocery store, clothing store, and law offices in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Some of the building’s original Romanesque Revival-style architectural characteristics were altered in the 1930s, resulting in a flat roof and box-like shape. Surviving original details include heavy stone window arches and decorative terra cotta panels beneath the belt course.

■ **10. Stroudsburg National Bank c.1893.**

**Main and S. Seventh Streets | PNC Wealth Management**



This site housed a bank for over 140 years. In 1857, a temple-front building was constructed here soon after the incorporation of the town’s first bank, Stroudsburg National Bank. The original board of directors included a young Jay Gould, who later made a fortune in railroads. In about 1893, present Richardsonian Romanesque-style building replaced the 1857 bank. Circa 1923, the bank was expanded along both Main and Seventh Streets and its first-story facade along Main

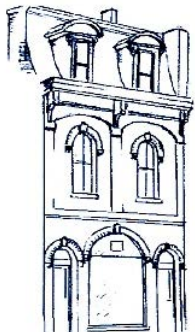
was replaced with more classical elements such as columns set in a smooth stone facade. Note the resident gargoyles on the second-story belt course, which is also highlighted with carved foliage.

■ **Bixler’s Hardware Store c.1922 633 Main Street**

*This building, originally No. 11 on the Historic Walking Tour, was razed in April 2007 after being destroyed by a fire on November 26, 2006.*

■ **12. E.A. Bell Insurance Company Building, c.1880**

**616 Main Street**



This Second Empire-style commercial building was constructed circa 1880 and was home to the E. A. Bell Insurance Company for over 70 years. Edwin Bell served as a local bank officer early in his career and moved his insurance business here by 1892. Bell’s family continued the business at this site until the 1970s.

Architectural details of this typical late 19th-century commercial building include a mansard roof front, dormer windows, tooth-like dentils and decorative brackets beneath the cornice, and round-arched windows with keystones.

▲ **13. Newberry’s Five and Dime Store 1953**

**Sixth and Main Streets**

John J. Newberry of the S.H. Kresge Company moved to Stroudsburg in 1911 and started his own discount store at 622 Main Street. A chain of Newberry Stores eventually opened along the East Coast.

This building was constructed in 1953 in the Moderne architectural style and features large display windows and modest decorative elements. The Newberry Store closed here in 1997 after 86 years in business.

■ **14. Darius Dreher Store and Residence and Masonic Building c.1865/1890**

**585 Main Street | Dunkleberger’s Sporting Goods**



The Darius Dreher store and residence (c.1865) and the Masonic Building (c.1890) now house a single retail store. As was common at the time, Mr. Dreher combined his dry goods business and home in the same building (far left).

A circa 1870 addition immediately west of the original store/house is an example of the Italianate architectural style.

T.I. Lacey & Son designed the Masonic Building (far right) with a commercial storefront on the first story and meeting space upstairs for the Freemason Society. The building features elements of the Romanesque Revival architectural style such as an arcaded corbel table and terra cotta panels above the third-story windows.

▲ **15. Malta Temple, 1904**

**565 Main Street**

The Malta Temple was built in 1904 for a fraternal society known as the Knights of Malta. Although its storefront has been altered, the building’s vertical upper story windows foreshadow the modern glass-front skyscraper. Stone ornamentation and columns flanking the windows remain as evidence of the Romanesque Revival architectural style. The Malta Temple once housed the locally well-known L’Hommedieu Music Company, and in later years was an IGA grocery store.

■ **16. Stroudsburg United Methodist Church c.1915**

**547 Main Street**



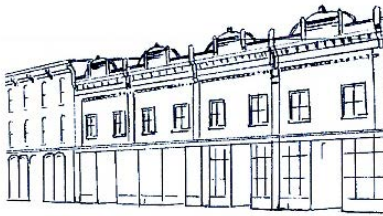
Methodist circuit riders first visited Stroudsburg in 1788 and held their services in private homes. In about 1830, the local Methodists built their first church on Eighth Street and in 1853 acquired the lot on Main Street.

A new church was dedicated in 1854 and enlarged in 1871. In 1915, this church building, whose stonework

imitates English Gothic Revival church architecture, replaced the earlier church on the site.

● **17. Wallace Hardware Building c.1860/1902**

**435 Main Street**

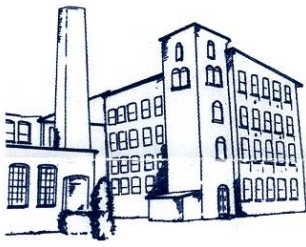


The Wallace Hardware Building comprises a circa 1860 Italianate-inspired storehouse (left), and a large 1902 addition (right). Together they functioned as Stroudsburg’s largest hardware store for most of the 20th century.

Wallace family members were leading merchants in Stroudsburg from the mid-19th through the early 20th centuries. Joseph Wallace purchased this storehouse in 1865, and in 1902 expanded his hardware business with a two-story addition. Both sections were subdivided after the hardware store closed in 1981.

Note the round-arch windows and bracketing on the storehouse, typical of the Italianate architectural style. The 1902 addition features brick corbelling and brackets beneath a decorative metal cornice with elaborate parapets above.

■ **18. Kitson Woolen Mills/Holland Thread Company**  
c. 1866-1904 – 411 Main Street



The four major buildings comprising Monroe County's oldest and largest textile mills were built between 1893 and 1904, although the west wing may include remnants of an 1866 building originally established as "Stroudsburg Mills." Newcomer Thomas Kitson took over operations in 1873 and made the mill a success, producing wool overcoat material for the New York market. In 1898, Kitsons Woolen Mills established a world's record for "sheep to suit," accomplishing the shearing, weaving, dying, and tailoring of a suit in six hours, four minutes. After a period of decline, the property was bought by the Holland Thread Company in 1933, eventually producing nylon and fiberglass cord until 1978. Converted to residential and office space in the mid-1980s, the mill complex is one of Stroudsburg's most successful architectural rehabilitation projects.

■ **19. 506-520 Main Street c.1870**



These buildings, located at the site of historic Fort Penn, date from about 1870, soon after the 1869 flood that devastated this section of Main Street. Typical of small-town commercial architecture from the late 19th century, the buildings exhibit bracketed cornices and arched windows. Note the well-preserved storefronts at 518 and 520 Main as well as the historic "Boston Candy Kitchen" tiled entrance at 506 Main. Other establishments in this block included a barber shop, meat market, grocery, and professional offices.

▲ **20. Sherman Theater 1928 – 524 Main Street**

The Sherman Theater is typical of small-town theater buildings of the 1920s. It opened on January 7, 1929, also at the former site of Fort Penn. In later years it became a movie theater and church. It became a theater again in 2005, and its facade restored to its original appearance. The interior space retains some original features, such as Corinthian pilasters and a coved ceiling. Note the original Indiana Limestone entrance.

■ **21. Wallace-L'Hommedieu House c.1865**  
530 Main Street | *RBLA Investments*



This building was home to local retail patriarch, Joseph Wallace, and his family for over a century. During his lifetime and after his death, Joseph's daughter, Josephine, resided here with her husband, attorney William L'Hommedieu. The L'Hommedieu family had interests in a local music store, engine works, dime store, and coal company. The house was converted to offices in the 1980s.

▲ **22. Wyckoff Department Store c. 1875, 1912**  
564 Main Street | *Main Street TV & Appliances*

The Wyckoff Department Store began as "The New York Store, Wyckoff, Cooke, and Bell" in 1875 and remained a downtown landmark for more than a century. Amzi Wyckoff, the store's founder, became its sole owner in 1892. After his father's death in 1912, Ernest Wyckoff significantly altered and expanded both the store building and its merchandise. Wyckoff's closed in 1981, not long after the Stroud Mall opened a few miles north of town.

▲ **23. Wallace Department Store c. 1899**  
Sixth and Main Streets | *Main Street Antiques*

A 1901 advertisement for "Joseph Wallace & Sons" announced "dry goods, silks, ribbons, gloves, corsets, fine shoes, boots, and rubbers." Although the storefront has been altered, the building's brick and stonework detailing remains as evidence of the Victorian Romanesque architectural style popular in the late 19th century.

■ **24. 19-23 S. Sixth Street c.1870-1920**



The structures at 19 and 21 South Sixth Street are good examples of late 19th-century in-town residential buildings. The vernacular Berean Mennonite Church building at 23 S. Sixth

Street is more simple than most church buildings downtown. All three buildings are excellent local examples of architectural rehabilitation. The Mennonite Church, constructed circa 1920, was converted to commercial use in the 1970s, and more extensively in the 1990s. (Now home to Shear Design Salon & Day Spa.) The church parsonage next door (21 S. Sixth), built about 1870, and 19 S. Sixth Street, built circa 1890, were converted to professional offices in the late 1970s.

● **25. U.S. Post Office 1934 – Ann and S. Seventh Streets**



This streamlined, Art-Deco post office was one of the few buildings constructed in Stroudsburg during the Great Depression and is a local result of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal federal building programs. The

post office features limestone construction with stylized columns, dentils, and metal spandrels. Also note the ornamental metal carving above the front door that depicts a steam locomotive and an airplane, typical stylistic motifs of that era. Additions to the Post Office were made in 1966.

■ **26. Orthodox Quaker Cemetery c.1811**  
Ann and South Eighth Streets

The Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, came to Stroudsburg in the early 19th century. They found a benefactor in Daniel Stroud who had converted to the Quaker faith after his marriage in 1802. In 1811, Stroud deeded the Friends a tract of land along present-day South Eighth Street. There the group erected a meeting house and established the cemetery. The Orthodox Quakers' numbers eventually dwindled and the meeting house was demolished in the late 19th century, but the cemetery remains.

● **27. George Tillotson House c.1880 – 905 Main Street**



The George Tillotson House is Monroe County's finest example of the Second Empire architectural style and the only survivor of three similar mansions located along Main Street in the late 19th century. Though later known locally as the Tillotson House, it was built around 1880 for George and Sally Dreher, a prominent Stroudsburg family. Tillotson purchased the home when he came here in 1892 to supervise the

Ryle Silk Mill in East Stroudsburg. The house was converted for use as a restaurant in the 1980s and restored for office use and apartments in 2014. It retains most of its outstanding stylistic features, including a patterned mansard roof, porthole dormers, decorative window hoods and brackets, and a central pavilion.

■ **28. Kern-Keiper House c.1900**  
913 Main Street | *Monroe County Bar Association*



This house was built for John Kern on a block of Main Street lined with other large homes of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1935, local businessman, Howard Keiper, acquired the property and conveyed it to the Monroe County Public Library in 1947. The library operated its main branch here until moving to larger quarters in 1997. At that date, the Monroe

County Bar Association restored some of the home's finer features, such as leaded glass interior doors and painted ceramic tile. The building's architecture illustrates the transition from Queen Anne to Colonial Revival styles.