

St. location in 1861, but it burned in the 1884 fire. The current structure replaced the ruins in 1885.

Turn left and walk west on Main St.

BOROUGH HALL(16), 31 W. Main. This building was built as the U.S. Post Office in 1930 and purchased by the Borough for its offices when the Postal Service built its new building on Lake St.

OFFICES OF DRS. C. FORD HEARD & J. LOUIS HEARD(17), 41 W. Main St. The Heards built this brick and stone house c. 1904. Dr. Carl Karsh had his practice here from 1930-1975. In 1977, the North East Health Care Center was opened here. In cooperation with Mercyhurst North East, the Health Care center moved to N. Pearl St. in 2007. Bella Day Spa opened in the building in 2008.

Cross Pearl St., once known as Railroad St. because it led to the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad Depot.

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH(18), 51 W. Main St. The Episcopal Mission of the Holy Cross was organized in 1972. They dedicated their building in 1879.

Cross Main St. and walk north on Pearl St.

SELKREGG HOUSE(19), 40 W. Main St. Harley D. Selkregg, a hardware store (10 E. Main St.) owner, built this 20-room house c. 1870. Robert J. Moorhead, President of Security Savings & Trust Co. of Erie, and his sister lived here for many years. Then Forest W. "Forrie" Hopkins, PA Legislator and publisher of *The North East Breeze*, lived here until his death in 1978. The house was a meeting place for businessmen, politicians and race horse jockeys and trainers. Forrie's race horse, Steppin' Pappy is buried in the backyard.

Continue north on Pearl St.

JOHN FOLL'S HOUSE(20), 12 N. Pearl St. John Foll worked at the South Shore Wine Co. and became superintendent and treasurer in the mid-1870's. This house originally stood at 7 Park St. and was moved to this location during World War I.

Turn right onto Gibson St. and cross to the north side of the street.

CRAWFORD/HIRTZEL HOUSE(21), 20 Gibson St. R. Crawford lived here from the 1850's until his death. He was a fruit farmer, an officer in the New Era Organ Co. and a director of a local bank. Orris C. Hirtzel purchased the house c. 1903. He was the treasurer of the Eureka Tempered Copper Works before he founded the Electric Materials Co. in 1915. He was the first president of the National Bank of North East. His son Philip then followed in his footsteps.

Turn left (north) on Park St. This area was developed in the 1850's.

DANFORD R. CUSHMAN HOUSE(22), 45 Park St. This Italianate home, built c. 1866, was the long time residence of D. R. Cushman. An attorney, he and his brother published *The Sun*. D. R. practiced law here until his death at the age of 95.

Cross Park St.

HAYES HOUSE(23), 48 Park St. R. Graham owned this house when it stood on Main St. just west of the Presbyterian Church, where the Borough Hall stands now. It was moved to its present location c. 1912-1913. This was one of many homes that were moved to a dif-

ferent locations. C. H. Hayes, President of the Eureka Electrical Products Co., purchased this house in 1927.

Turn right (east) on W. Division St., formerly called Seminary St.

LAKE SHORE SEMINARY(24), 16 W. Division St. Since no public high school existed at the time, the Methodist Episcopal and Presbyterian churches got together and founded the seminary in 1869. It opened in 1871, but went bankrupt in a few years. The Second Empire building contained dormitory space, a dining room, a chapel and classrooms. The Redemptorist Fathers of Pa. purchased the building in 1881 to create St. Mary's Seminary. They added the east wing (Father's house) in 1894. The Gothic chapel was dedicated in 1902. The Redemptorists also faced the original brick buildings with stone. Other buildings followed. The main building suffered a major fire in 1977, which resulted in the removal of two upper stories (the building had been five stories high). Subsequently, the Redemptorists closed the Seminary and concentrated their efforts elsewhere. In 1991, the property was purchased by Mercyhurst College of Erie, which now operates several two-year programs and others out of the buildings. Enrollment has grown to 1,000 in 18 years.

Turn right onto N. Lake St.

ROSS MANOR(25), 52 N. Lake St. Across the street is the Greek Revival house built by Harry Ross on July 4, 1846. The Ross family lived here for 108 years (three generations). Mrs. Ross operated a tea room here in the 1930s and 1940s.

CHARLES H. MOTTIER HOUSE(26), 49 N. Lake St. Charles Mottier's father came to North East from Cincinnati, OH, where the Swiss winemaker was well-known. Father and son worked at the South Shore Wine Co.; then started their own vineyards, wine company and basket factory. Charles built this house c.1900.

HEARD PARK(27), N. Lake St. This property was the site of the first public school, named simply "The Academy." Dr. James Louis Heard bequeathed money to the community to build a new school in memory of his family. It opened Jan. 4, 1937 and closed in 1999. The property was then purchased by the Borough with money donated by the Hirtzel Foundation and developed as a park.

PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH(28), 30 N. Lake St. The congregation, organized in 1912, originally had a small brick building in the park. This was replaced by a frame building on the present location. About 1900, this building was moved to the rear of the property, where it continued to be used while the current building was constructed. The Richardsonian Romanesque building was built by the Constable Bros. of Erie in 1903 at an estimated cost of \$25,000. The debt was paid and the church dedicated in 1907.

NORTH EAST JOINT HIGH SCHOOL/PARKSIDE(29), 2 Gibson St. A Buffalo, NY firm designed this Neo-Classical building. Construction started in 1916; the building was dedicated in 1920. This building was a "joint" effort of the Borough and Township school districts and cost \$138,000 with no federal or state funds. The school closed in 1981 and has been converted to a retirement community.

Cross Gibson St. and head diagonally across the park to view the house next to Parkside.

HILL ENGINEERING INC.(30), 8 Gibson St. E. C. Child, Architect of Philadelphia and New York, designed this house in 1894 for M. A. Caldwell, owner of the South Shore Wine Co. Hill Engineering purchased the house in 1950.

Continue diagonally across the park.

GIBSON PARK(31). (Diamond Park on map.) The park is named for James Gibson, a resident director of the Pennsylvania Population Co., which originally owned most of Erie County. In 1855, the town fathers passed an ordinance to prohibit cattle and pigs from running at large and approved payment for fencing the park. The began purchasing trees for the park in 1858. The cast zinc sculpture in the fountain is "The Maid of the Mist." She's been standing in the park since 1889 and was restored in 2005.

WHITEHILL HOUSE(32), 7 Park St. James and Edna Whitehill, who owned a fruit farm, built this showplace in 1918. They donated it to the Presbyterian Church for use as a parsonage. Since 2007, it has been the home of Community Nursing Services of North East.



Park Hotel a.k.a. "The Brawley House"

MCCORD MEMORIAL LIBRARY(33), 32 W. Main St. A Free Public Library Association formed in 1899 and eventually had a library in a home on the SW corner of Park and Gibson Sts. John C. McCord bequeathed \$25,000 to build a library in 1912. Subsequently, the Association purchased and demolished the old Brawley House (1833) and built this building, dedicating it in 1916.

Walk east along Main St. toward Lake St.

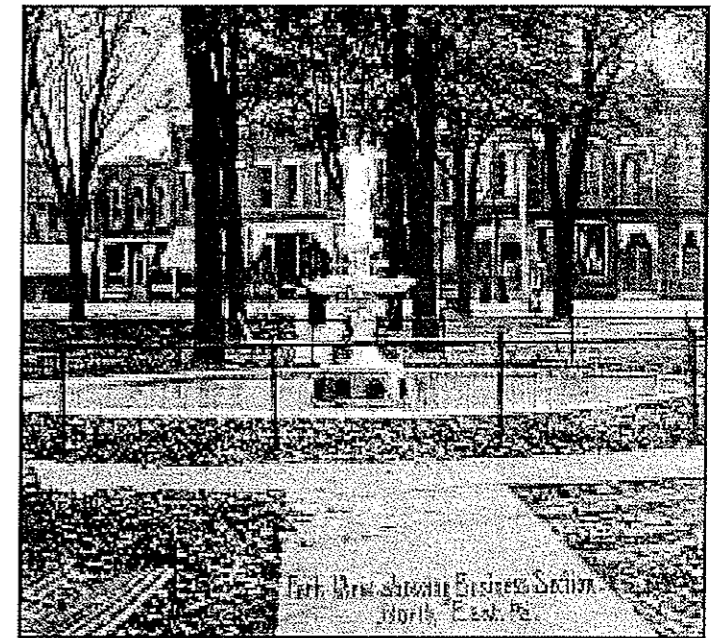
NATIONAL BANK OF NORTH EAST/M.N.E. POLICE ACADEMY(34), 21 W. Main St. The National Bank of North East was organized by O. C. Hirtzel in 1908. Like other commercial buildings in town, several businesses have operated here. The bank moved here from 7 W. Main in 1949. A large room upstairs was formerly used as a public dance hall and dancing lessons were offered. Mercyhurst North East's police academy is now housed here.

CORNER STORE BLOCK(35), 1-9 W. Main St. Sampson Short, lumberman and entrepreneur, built this block immediately after the 1884 fire for use as a banking house. The Corner Store sold newspapers, tobacco and candy for over 100 years.

Original text written by Susan Beates in 1990; revised and updated by Rodney E. Blystone III in 2009.

© 2009 - North East Area Chamber of Commerce

A WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC NORTH EAST PENNSYLVANIA



Incorporated in 1802 as one of the original 16 townships in Erie County, North East was so-named because of its location in Erie County. The crossroads of the Buffalo Road and Station Road (cut by land agent Judah Colt) has variously been called Burgettstown and Gibsonville. The Borough of North East was incorporated in 1934. This historic walking tour emphasizes the development of the community and the changes that have taken place in the commercial district. The historic district described here was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

Existing buildings/places are shown in bold and **ALL CAPS**. The locations of former businesses are listed in bold only. Many of the businesses are open to the public, but most of the homes described are PRIVATE residences. Please respect the owners' privacy.