

NORWIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Come visit us at our office under the clock tower - during special downtown events!



We preserve our local history, promote the history of the Norwin Community and embrace the opportunity to educate the Community about the people, places and events that comprise the history of Irwin, North Irwin, and North Huntingdon Township.



Overly's Sleigh Room

(Historical items displayed at Overly's Country Christmas)

Area residents have donated innumerable treasures for preservation by - and on exhibit at - the Norwin Historical Society.



Along with other Historical Society organizations, some of our "treasurers" were exhibited at Overly's Country Christmas this year, including a butter churn, a wooden buggy seat, a large historic Irwin Bank stamp, and one of Irwin's former Christmas lamppost lights.

Thanks to Glass Masters Window Cleaning for making our windows gleam! Note the awning has been removed to allow more visibility into the Center and two of Irwin's former Christmas lamppost lights were hung to reflect the festive season.



2016 Annual Holiday House Tour!

The Norwin Historical Society Holiday House Tour was held on Saturday, December 3, 2016.

Tour booklets were provided which included the homes on tour, addresses, directions, a map, and histories and points of interest on each home.

This is the Norwin Historical Society's major source of income for the year, so we're most appreciative of those who participate on the Holiday House Tour!

As always, we arranged to have a "mix" of homes on our tour, with a variety of styles, ages, and architecture.

The popular new VIP Shuttle Service was added this year to make it more convenient for those who preferred to be transported to each home.

If you or someone you know would like to include your home in next year's tour, please email or give us a call.

*Thank
you for
your
support!*



▲ Built in the early 1950's, the current owners of this traditional Cape Cod, have lived in the home since 1996. They have added both front and back porches, new wood windows, cement board siding, and a dimensional shingle roof. Custom fireplaces were added in the living room and lower level family room, along with a new front entry door.



▲ Located in the Falcon Ridge neighborhood, this home was built by the current owners in 1999 on the old Gongaware farm. Their family helped them with deck building and masonry work. Renovations over the past few years include a new/expanded kitchen and a finished game room.



▲ Completed in 2014, the result was a multigenerational home that contains six bedrooms, four and a half baths, a two-story great room with wood burning fireplace, home office, playroom, upstairs laundry, and five car garage. An in-law suite, with bedroom, kitchen, laundry and bath, complete the home.



▲ The Greenhouse Winery is located on property that has been in the Hazuza family for over four generations. The fields that lead up to the new building were once lined with rows of grapevines, producing wine and moonshine during prohibition. The new building welcomes visitors for wine tasting, mystery theatre, happy hour, live music, wedding receptions, and many other memorable events.

◀ A lovely, remodeled and updated second floor apartment is located in the McWilliams building, otherwise known as Irwin's Clock Tower. The building's present owner maintained much of the original woodwork and flooring. The tower has become an important part of Irwin's visual image and it was incorporated into the borough's logo in 2010.



▲ The original owners of this North Irwin home purchased the property in 1890. Although changing hands several times, the present owner is the first non-family member to own the home since 1912. Having been purchased in 1991, it has been extensively updated both inside and out, with a “dream porch” now complete.



▲ Located in the beautiful setting of the Shirley Family Estate, the Norwin Community Resource Center is dedicated to enriching the mind, body and spirit of the community and helps seniors 50 and older to remain active in the community.



▲ This two-story home was built around 1906 on property that was originally purchased from the descendants of John Irwin. The home has four fireplaces, two living rooms, a dining room, kitchen and powder room on the first floor. The second floor contains three bedrooms, a laundry room, and two full baths.

Did You Know?

by Bob Cupp

THE BRINE WELL HOUSE HOTEL

In 1830, Alexander Guffey built the Brine Well House Hotel along the banks of the Youghiogheny River in Guffey Hollow. The Brine Well was a famous inn until it burned down in 1900. Travelers going up or down the Youghiogheny Valley, by steamboat or by train, stopped overnight at the Brine Well. The big, three-story inn was well-known for its unusual furnishings, excellent food and gracious hospitality.

The 40 by 60 ft. building faced the river between Robbins Station and Shaner, near the North Huntingdon/Sewickley Township border. The spot is still known as “Guffey’s Station,” although few traces of the railroad station or steamboat landing remain.

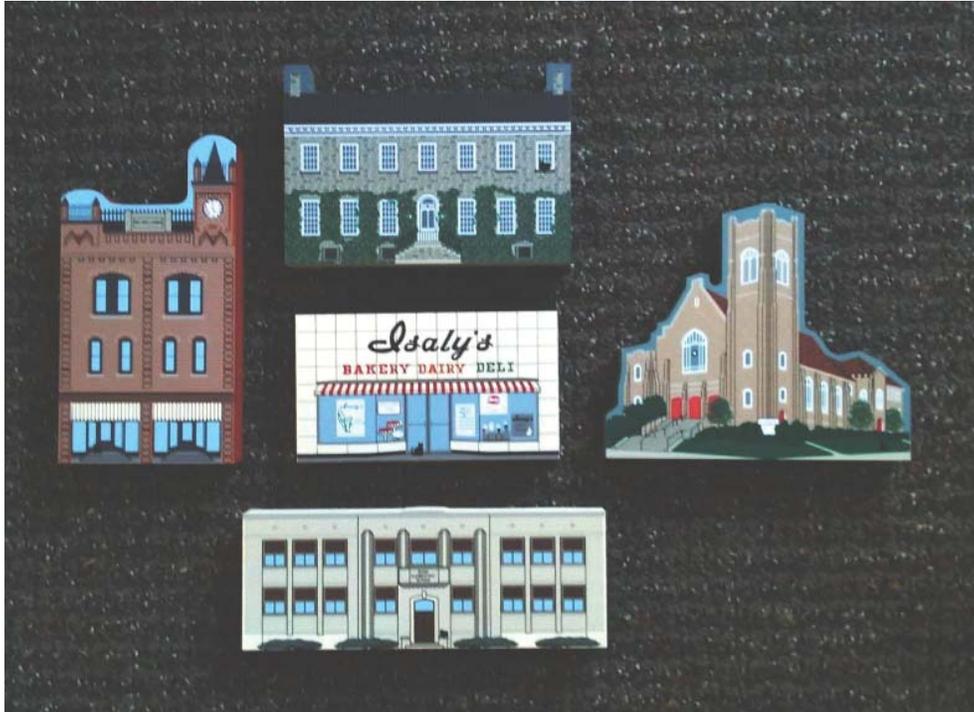
When the Pennsylvania railroad first crossed the state, they brought passengers no further than Beatty Station, about 10 miles east of Greensburg. People wishing to go from Greensburg to Pittsburgh had to disembark at Beatty Station, go overland in coaches owned by Mr. Guffey to Guffey’s Landing, and there take a boat to Pittsburgh.

When the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was built from Washington to Pittsburgh, Guffey’s Landing was a passenger stop. Steamboats by that time were out of fashion; the dams that made the river navigable were abandoned, and the stop became Guffey’s Station.



The Brine Well House was a famous hotel along the Youghiogheny River during the nineteenth century. It was built by Alexander Guffey and named after the salt wells he operated nearby.

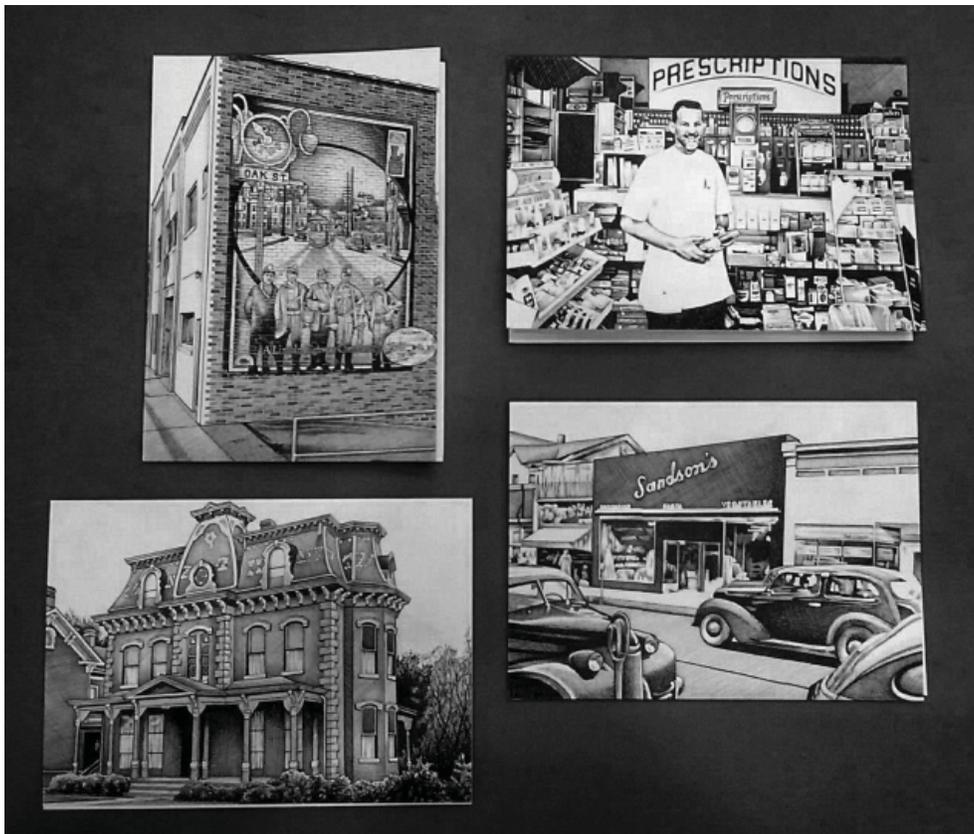
Historical Gems You Can Purchase for Yourself (or Others)!



These two-dimensional Cat's Meow replicas of local buildings are available for \$10-\$15 each at our Main Street location and at the Norwin Chamber of Commerce.

Clockwise from top:

Brush Hill, First Presbyterian Church, Shaw Elementary School, Clock Tower, and Isaly's.



Four outstanding illustrations have been drawn by Bob Weaver for the Irwin Business & Professional Association's 2016 historical notecards set.

Clockwise from top left:

- 1. Lincoln Highway Mural*
- 2. Peterman's Pharmacy*
- 3. Sandson's Market*
- 4. Main Street Mansion (McCormick House)*

The 8-card set includes two of each 5"x7" design for \$10 and can be purchased at Woleslagle Interiors, New 2 You, and Cheesecake Cafe.



Norwin Historical Society

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