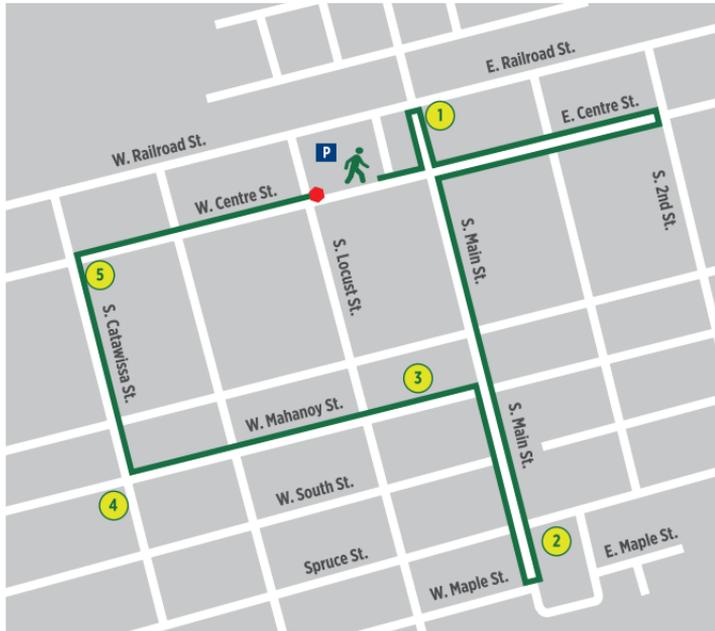


# An Old Mahanoy Stroll

Route



- 1 Railroads
- 2 Smith Mansion
- 3 Mahanoy City Library
- 4 Synagogue Congregation Beth Israel
- 5 Molly Maguire Historic Park
- P Parking

..... Distance 1.0 Mile

# An Old Mahanoy Stroll Route

## 1 Railroads

With the discovery of coal near Mahanoy City the need to transport the coal to the big city markets quickly was paramount. Construction of the Mahanoy Tunnel through an anthracite mountain made it possible to bring not only coal to the burgeoning industrial revolution, but also culture and opportunity to its citizens.

## 2 Smith Mansion

Built at a cost of \$40,000 in 1908, this house features a wrap-around porch, ornate woodwork, a three story tower, inlaid floors and crystal chandeliers. It is a great example of late Victorian architecture. It was built by John Zenchak Smith, the wealthiest Carpatho-Rusyn of his era. He spearheaded the movement to build St. Mary's Byzantine Church and was a major supporter.

## 3 Mahanoy City Library

Built in 1906 by the Knights of Columbus, the first floor of this building served as their meeting rooms and offices. Upstairs was their grand ballroom. The original tin ceiling, wooden floor, lights and bookcases are still intact. In 2009, a major reconstruction project opened the first and second floors to the public including the handicapped by installing an elevator and fire safe stair tower.

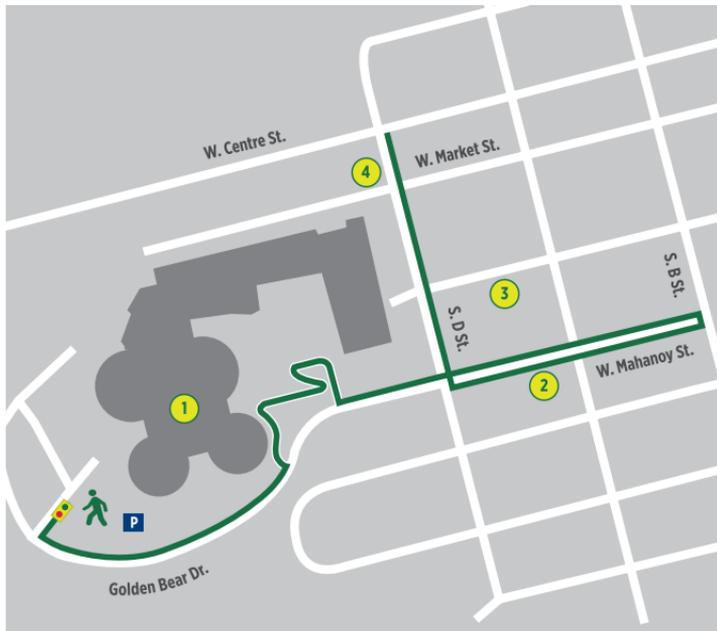
## 4 Synagogue Congregation Beth Israel

The Jewish community in Mahanoy City organized a congregation in 1888. In 1922, the congregation built this synagogue. The words Congregation Beth Israel still appear in Hebrew above the door.

## 5 Molly Maguire Historic Park

This small park is a powerful reminder of the famed Molly Maguires and the early labor struggles in the mines. The history of the Molly Maguires is told on the walls of the park with a sculpture that shows a man bound at his hands and feet with ropes, a hood over his head, and ready for the gallows.

# Golden Bear Jaunt Route



- 1 Mahanoy Township Football Stadium
- 2 Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church
- 3 St. Mary's Byzantine Church
- 4 Market Street

**P** Parking

 Start/Stop

..... Distance 0.91 Miles

# Golden Bear Jaunt Route

1

## **Mahanoy Township Football Stadium**

Also known as West End Stadium, it was the home of the Mahanoy Township High School Purple Larks. It hosted Babe Ruth, Connie Mack, Glenn Cunningham, Joey Chitwood and other world famous athletes. In the 1970s, it was demolished to make way for the Mahanoy Area School complex.

2

## **Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church**

It was here on June 17, 1995 that the woman many believe to be a modern saint walked the streets of Mahanoy City. Many remember her message: "We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love."

3

## **St. Mary's Byzantine Church**

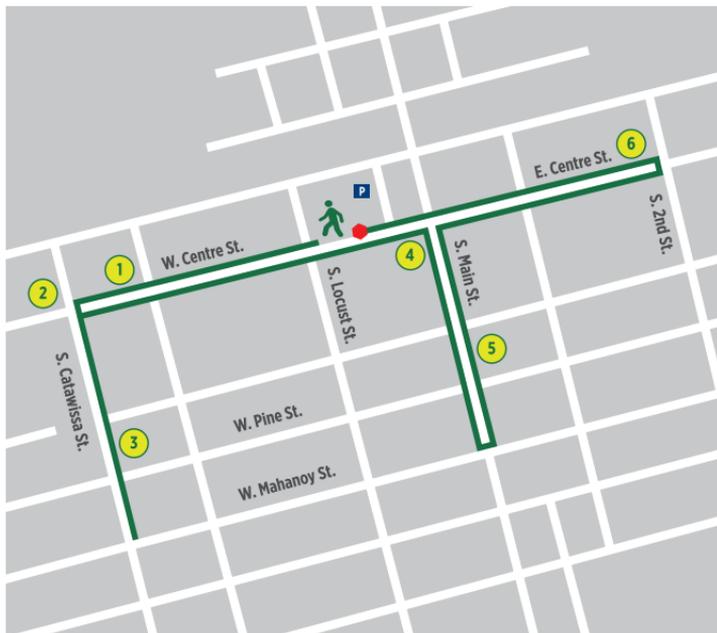
A group of 200 Carpatho Rusyn immigrants led by John Zencak Smith founded this Church in 1890 with the Reverend Theophany Obushkevich as pastor. By 1891, they had built their own church on this site. In 1931, under the pastorship of Father Emil Kubek, a new Church was built. Fr. Emil Kubek served the congregation from 1904 to 1940. A prolific author, he wrote poems, short stories and a monumental Slavonic Rusyn-Hungarian dictionary. The present church still has the original European Iconoclast (1891). In the rear of the church, there is an Icon "Our Lady of Mahanoy City" with the Blessed Mother holding the Christ Child, who is holding a bucket of Anthracite Coal.

4

## **Market Street**

Once Market Street was an open creek. The Works Progress Administration in the 1920s constructed a 23 block long open creek channel with bridges constructed at cross streets. The original channel was changed to make it straight through the town. Later, a solid bridge spanning the 23 blocks was created over the water changing Water Street to Market Street.

# Mahanoy Mile Route



- 1 Service Electric
- 2 Veterans' Memorial
- 3 St. Canicus Church
- 4 Mansion House
- 5 Victoria Theatre
- 6 Elks Building
- P Parking

..... Distance 1.0 Mile

# Mahanoy Mile Route

- 1 Service Electric**

This building, that had been Guinan's Department store, was purchased in 1945 by John Walsonavage, founder of Service Electric Television, the first TV cable company. Mr. Walsonavage had sold appliances from his store on Main and Pine Sts. It was there in 1948 that he ran a cable from an antenna on a nearby mountain to his store. When a customer bought a television, Walsonavage ran a cable to their home and charged them for the service.
- 2 Veterans' Memorial**

This is a memorial in memory of all men and women of the Mahanoy Area who served bravely in all American wars. The tank is a US Army M-60 A3 Patton tank that was dedicated on May 23, 1998.
- 3 St. Canicus Church**

St. Canicus, the English speaking Catholic Church in Mahanoy City, was dedicated in July 1866 by Bishop Wood of Philadelphia. This present church and school was built in 1924. Across the street, where there is now a parking lot, stood the first Irish church built by Irish immigrants in 1863.
- 4 Mansion House**

The Senior Hi-Rise building, built in the late 1970s, replaced the grand Mansion House Hotel and Restaurant. Built in 1863 of brick and stucco, this four story structure was the center of Mahanoy City's social life for many decades. It housed an ice cream shop, bakery, coffee shop, bar and dining rooms. Many important figures of the day stayed at the Mansion House.
- 5 Victoria Theatre**

Constructed by Chamberlain Amusement Company in 1925, the Victoria had seating for 1,570. Orchestras, vaudeville, vocal and instrumental soloists and operettas were seen here. Big bands appeared at the theatre on a regular basis including the Fred Waring Band and John Phillip Souza. In later years "talking movies" and local productions were also featured here. It closed its doors in 1981.
- 6 Elks Building**

Dedicated in 1916, the first floor of the building was originally a theatre. The second floor included a grille, dining room, bowling alley and billiard tables. The third floor housed a beautiful dance floor and stage.