

WALKING TOUR OF THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF 6TH STREET, INDIANA PA

1.) J. P. CARTER HOUSE (THOMAS SUTTON HOUSE), 209 SOUTH 6TH STREET (1870). An eclectic, two-story brick building merging elements of two popular styles: Second Empire (mansard roof, dormers, classical moldings, and arched doors) and Italian Villa. A large square tower with projecting eaves, so typical of the Villa style, was removed in the 1970s. The dwelling cost J. P. Carter \$30,000. Carter, a local businessman, deliberately built a larger house than his neighbor Silas Clark in retaliation for Clark's having secured the services of the architect whom Carter wanted! Thomas Sutton, son of Indiana University Pennsylvania's (IUP) John Sutton, purchased the home in 1879.

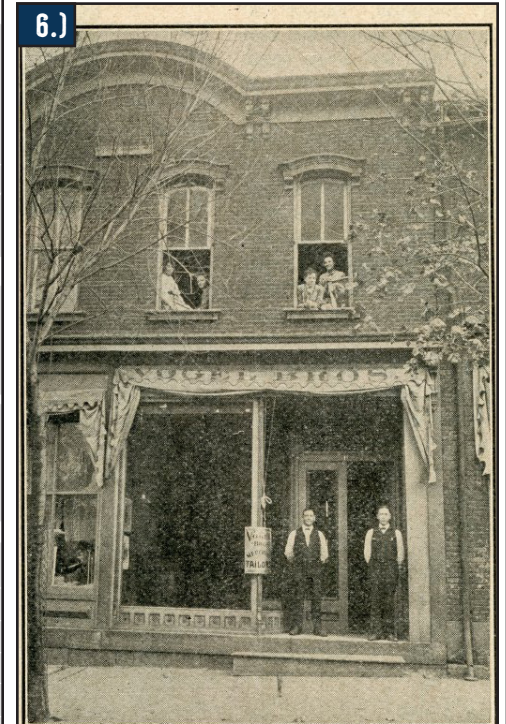
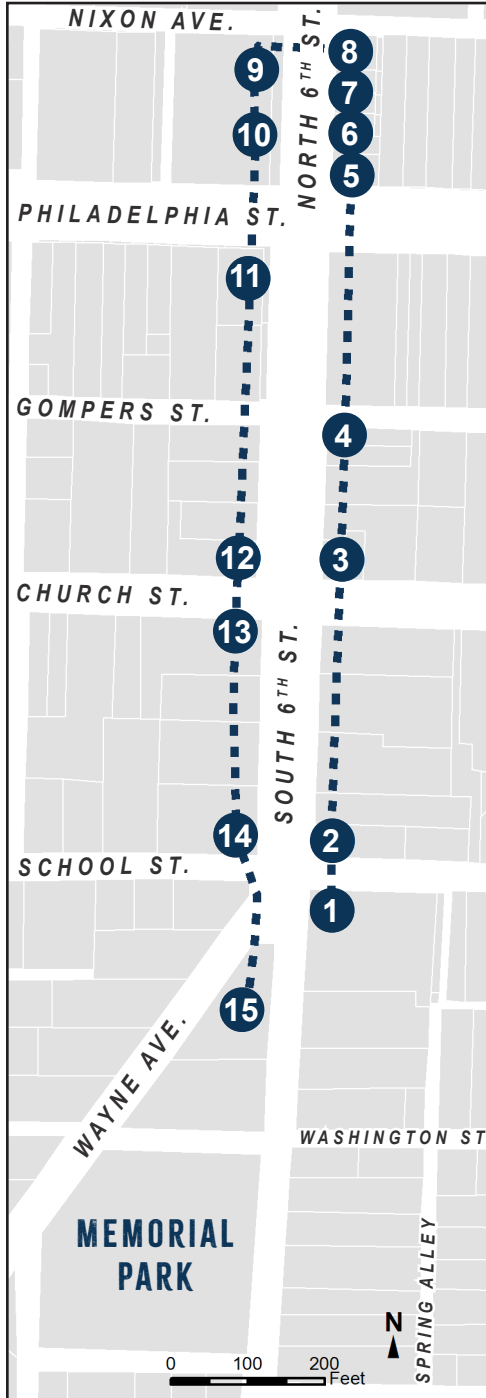
2.) SUDIE CAMERON HOME, 145 SOUTH 6TH STREET (C. 1915). A Victorian Romanesque house with squat, polished marble columns, and rounded arches, giving it a heavy look. The use of contrasting colors (golden tan and smoky rose) and textures (smooth marble and rough stone) is also typical of this style.

3.) JAMES MITCHELL HOUSE, 57 SOUTH 6TH STREET (1849). A brick Federal structure characterized by a central doorway and a symmetrical floor plan (a central hallway flanked by two rooms on each side on both floors). Parapet chimneys flank its gable roof. An unusual feature of this house is the second front doorway. Since the house initially served as a residence and a general merchandising store, someone eliminated the usual window in favor of the second entrance—the frame addition in the rear dates from c. 1873. James Mitchell, a local merchant who also served on the Indiana Borough Council, built this house. Later occupants were attorney Hugh Weir and Dr. Howard B. Buterbaugh, a well-known Indiana physician. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

4.) DAVID RALSTON HOUSE, 33-41 SOUTH 6TH STREET (1843). A double, brick, Federal house with a later single addition (c. 1850), presently three separate units used as offices and dwellings. Parapet chimneys are still evident on the south gable end. David Ralston, a local merchant, built the house when he moved to Indiana from the Shelocta area to become sheriff (1842-1845). The next owner, Bennet Whissel, used it as a hotel. James Mitchell also owned this structure (c. 1859) and ran an inn called the "Mansion House."

5.) WILLIAM HOUSTON HOUSE, 583 PHILADELPHIA STREET (C. 1823). The second oldest building in Indiana Borough, a Federal style structure with an emphasis on right angles and simplicity. Note the massive parapet chimney on the west wall. The house was used as the town's first bank by Hogue and Company in 1858. In 1864, the parent company of the National Bank of the Commonwealth (now First Commonwealth Bank) operated here, and in 1870, it became Henry Hall's store.

6.) VOGEL BROTHERS BUILDING, 11 NORTH 6TH STREET (1830-1840). In 1849, the Vogel Brothers opened a tailor and harness shop here—a symmetrical, Federal-style brick structure with simple arched window heads and an arched cornice.



Vogel Brothers' Tailoring Establishment

7.) MESSENGER BUILDING, 15 NORTH 6TH STREET (C. 1840). Home of the Indiana Messenger, a local independent journal established c. 1856. Once used as a post office, it is a two-story brick structure with highly embellished cast iron window heads. The structure remains relatively intact except for the first floor.

8.) GRAFF'S MARKET, 27 NORTH 6TH STREET (C. 1880). A three-story wooden structure with the only cast iron facade in Indiana County. A nameplate bearing the name of the company that manufactured the cast iron facade can be seen on both bottom corners of the front. The interior ceiling and walls at the front of the store retain the original decorative metal sheeting panels. Here, the town's first library was opened on the second floor by the New Century Club in 1904.

9.) INDIANA COUNTY SHERIFF'S HOUSE AND JAIL, 22 NORTH 6TH STREET (1887). The fourth County jail was designed by C. H. Sparks and built by John Hastings, and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Notice the cut stone quoins, decorative window heads, and ornately turned woodwork on the portico. The house has twelve rooms, including an office for the sheriff. Executions were conducted in the courtyard behind the Old Courthouse; the last hanging was on November 23, 1913.

10.) INDIANA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PHILADELPHIA AND NORTH 6TH STREET (1870). The Old Courthouse, the second on this site, is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Architect James Drum designed it in a Second Empire style with triple hung windows, a high mansard roof, Corinthian columns with cast iron capitals, a clock tower with cresting, and cut stone quoins. Leased by First Commonwealth Bank, the interior has been restored.

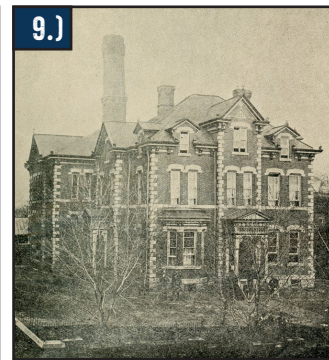
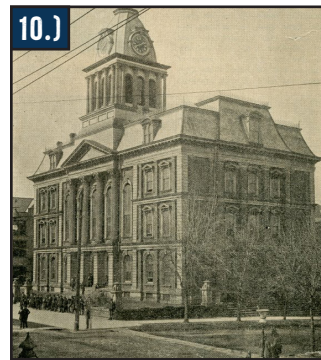
11.) FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK, PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTH 6TH STREET. The bank opened on April 9, 1934 as a reorganization of the First National Bank. In 1921, the bank purchased the corner lots that had housed the Loughry Store, Grand Theater, Sloan Bros., the Federal Banking Company, and Tomb and Walker Restaurant.

12.) J. BLAIR SUTTON HOME, 56 SOUTH 6TH STREET (1840). Built by Adam Rowe, this was once part of the Indiana Seminary. Hickory pins were used instead of nails. A well on the property supplied water for the fire company's bucket brigades.

13.) ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, SOUTH 6TH AND CHURCH STREETS (1923). A stone Gothic Revival structure with weatherings, buttresses, and large pointed stained glass windows with tracery.

14.) SITE OF JOHN W. SUTTON HOUSE, 134 SOUTH 6TH STREET (C. 1882-83). Built by John W. Sutton, an Indiana merchant and son of the more famous John Sutton, for whom the building on IUP campus is named. From 1920-1963, the dwelling was used as the Calvary United Presbyterian manse. It now houses the law offices of Bonya, Gazza, & DeGory. Primarily Second Empire in style, it has a mansard roof, dormers, and brick quoins. A bay window is located on the southern wall; elliptical fanlight and sidelights surround the front entrance.

15.) SILAS M. CLARK HOUSE, SOUTH 6TH STREET AND WAYNE AVENUE (1870). An Italian Villa-style brick dwelling characterized by S-brackets, a low-pitched gable roof, a bay window, round-headed windows, brick quoins, and a tall, square tower. Silas M. Clark was a judge on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and one of the founders of the Indiana Normal School (1875). After the building underwent an extensive exterior and interior restoration, the Historical Society acquired it in 1994. The building is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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