

Have you visited the Town of Porter Historical Museum? If you have you realize what a colorful history of the Village of Youngstown and the Town of Porter is presented there, and this reminder may have inspired a return visit. If you have not, I am going to guide you down the hallways and thru the display rooms so that, perhaps you too, can experience and appreciate our wonderful communities.

The Town of Porter Historical Museum is located on the 2nd floor of the Village of Youngstown Municipal Building at 240 Lockport Street. The museum is open Wednesday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., with additional hours upon request. The building is handicapped accessible, with an elevator to the 2nd Floor.

The entrance hallway is dedicated to the Youngstown and Town of Porter Schools, the Cold Storage and the Lewiston Youngstown Frontier Railroad.

The first school in Youngstown opened in 1806. It was destroyed during the War of 1812-1814, but was followed by 2 buildings on Main Street until 1892 when a new school with 4 classrooms was built on the site you are visiting.

The schools in the Town of Porter, a total of 11 over time, were located at the various corners of the Township for the children of the local farm families.

There are 2 display cases containing memorabilia from the schools. On the wall above there are maps documenting the formalizing of the boundaries and lots within Youngstown, Town of Porter and surrounding areas; and photos of some of the schools.

The opposite side of the hallway is dedicated to the history of the Youngstown Cold Storage and the Lewiston Youngstown Frontier Railway Company. There are photos, display cases and standalone informational desks highlighting the activities associated with each.

Continuing on, you arrive in the “Hallway of Main Street Homes”. Here you will find photos and a short history of residences, all from the 1800’s as far back as 1830.

As you enter the display rooms, to the right is a room devoted to reference literature, compiled over the years documenting the growth of our community, and the people who made it possible with their commitments. The museum Director or museum Curator can usually be found in this room, continuing their gathering and cataloging information. There is also a display of pamphlets, brochures and booklets for sale, highlighting areas of interest.

The 2nd display room, opening directly off the 1st, contains a variety of furniture, household items (both functional and decorative), photos and clothing. All representative of day-to-day life in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Thru a doorway in the right corner leads to display room 3 dedicated to the economic and recreational growth of Youngstown and Town of Porter. The exhibits showcase farming, fishing, medicine and family thru a variety of tools, memorabilia and photos.

Finally, display room 4 is a recreation of a classroom in this building, with exhibits of furniture, photos, memorabilia and books.

I hope you will make some time to visit the Town of Porter Historical Museum. It offers fascinating insights into the life, times and people which contributed to the vibrant communities of today.

Sources

T.O.P. Historical Museum