



1. Dover Public Library—525 N. Walnut Street. The Dover Public Library traces its roots to 1902 with the start of a public reading room by the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company. This reading room was located at the corner of Front and Factory Streets, today

North Tuscarawas Avenue. It contained 2,000 books in the charge of Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, and included everything from *Six Thousand Years of History* to *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*. Modern day mystery fans will appreciate it also contained *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

In 1907, the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company offered to donate the collection to the community of Dover. A location was found for a library at the corner of Cherry and Fifth Streets on property owned by the Dover public school system. The Simpson family remained custodians until 1914.

The new high school was built in 1915, and when completed, the library building was dismantled and the library moved to the school basement. In 1927 an “unfortunate impression” arose. A newspaper story reported that many Dover residents thought the basement library was a student library. But figures were released saying that circulation had increased 100 percent in four years and it was feared the library would soon outgrow its quarters.

In August 1934, *The Daily Reporter* headlined the fact that the library was opening in an “Elaborate New Home.” This was the former private home at 417 Walnut Street, which was to house close to 11,000 books. The “new” library was described as “commodious, with excellent natural lighting, serving its purpose well and conveniently accessible to both high school student and the general public.” The Dover Public Library made this its home until the mid 1950s. A bond issue in 1953 provided funds for a new library on the corner of North Walnut



and West 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. A spacious, light, and innovative new building opened in September 1955, and with improvements and additions continues to serve as the front door of the community.

2. John Deis House—203 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The John Deis home was built in 1868 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a significant example of Italianate style architecture and is the only example of the front gable subtype in the city. The original floorplan is still intact with oak flooring, walnut staircase and wainscoting and the original fireplaces. John Deis was born in Bavaria and came to the United States in 1836. He originally lived in Florida and

worked selling produce. He made trips to Dover where he met his wife at a camp meeting. He built his first home, a log cabin, in 1849. His family became very instrumental in the development of Dover as a center of commerce and industry. Sons Philip and Andrew operated the Deis Bissman Kurtz furniture manufacturing company located between the Ohio & Erie Canal and the Tuscarawas River. Andrew was also the president of the State Savings Bank and a director of the Invincible Manufacturing Company. He was a philanthropist and a large land holder in Dover. John's son Christian served in the 80<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, obtaining the rank of captain. He established the Deis Fertig Wholesale Grocery Company with Samuel Fertig.



3. Dr. Joseph Slingluff House—606 N. Wooster Avenue. The Slingluff home, on the National Register of Historic Places, is an Italianate house built in 1866 as the residence of Dr. Joseph Slingluff. Slingluff came to Dover in 1828 and is believed to be Dover's first mayor. He was known for improving the town with three additions of city lots beginning in 1846 and was instrumental in bring the railroad to Dover. Slingluff was the son of one of the founders of Dover, Jesse Slingluff of Maryland. Jesse Slingluff never lived in Dover,

but sent his sons George and Joseph to the bustling village. George came to town as an 18-year old, bringing a stock of goods and opening a store on Front Street.



4. Hardesty House--530 North Wooster Avenue. This grand pre-Civil War home, built in 1855, has been in the Hardesty family since 1879 when it was purchased by Alonzo and Mary Baker Hardesty. Alonzo and his brother William were known as the Hardesty Brothers, proprietors of Hardesty Flour Mills in Canal Dover. The mills were at one time the third largest milling establishment in the United States. The Hardesty mills included the Dover City Mill, originally opened in 1842 by Nathaniel Hayden and Elijah Welty, the Cascade Mill along the banks of the canal and originally

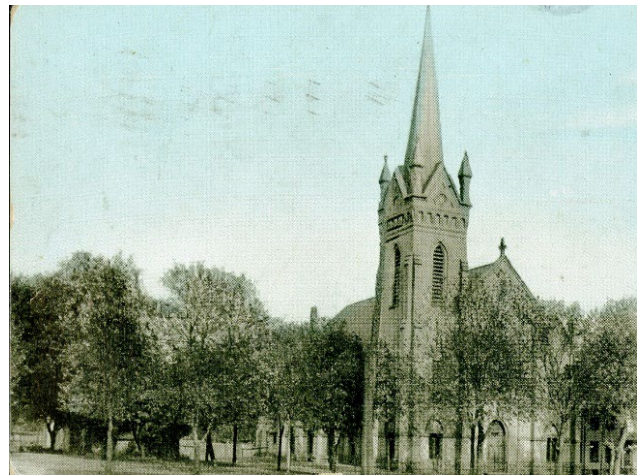
started by town founder Christian Deardorff, and a modern brick mill. Their signature brands of flour were "New Process Flour" and "Peerless Best." The house remains largely as it was at the turn of the century. The first floor, with 11 foot ceilings, features a center hall with an open stairway, living room and large parlor, each having a fireplace, and a formal dining room. The upstairs features a large center hall, four bedrooms, bathroom and maid's quarters accessible to the kitchen by a back stairway.



5. Memorial Hall—410 North Wooster Avenue. This structure was built in 1922 with the remaining money in the Community War Chest Fund, collected during World War I. Construction by American Legion Post 205 began in June with

the help of the Alpha Pi fraternity, the Rotary, and Kiwanis Clubs. It was built as a 2 story brick structure with meeting rooms and an athletic floor and was expanded by the PWA beginning in 1936.

6. St. John's United Church of Christ—409 North Wooster Avenue. St. John's was organized as the German Evangelical Church in 1838. In 1924 it became St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church, and in 1962 it officially became St. John's United Church of Christ. The German language was used for all records until 1902. Services were in German until about 1915. At least one service a month was in German up until 1933. The first church was built on this lot in 1838 and shared with the English Lutheran church until 1863. The current church was built in 1881 and has undergone renovations.



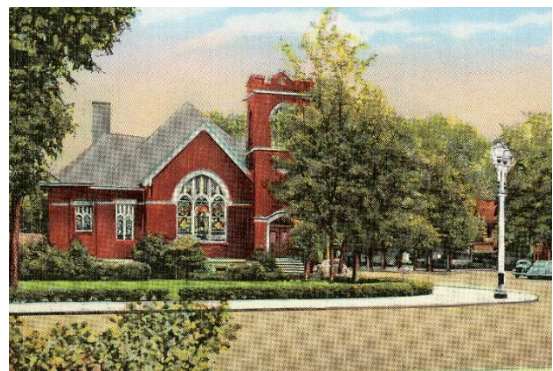
7. Potschner Ford—the parsonage of St. John's Church originally sat on this lot but was sold to Potschner in the 1920s. This corner was then the home of the first local Ford dealer in the area. It remained there for over 50 years. It has also held a Harley-Davidson dealership and a furniture store. It is once again owned by the church and serves as an outreach facility and a space for contemporary worship.



8. The Fourth Street Cemetery is the oldest in Dover. Fourth Street Cemetery was set aside as a burial site for some of Dover's earliest residents around 1810. At the time, most families interred their relatives in a family cemetery located on their farm. As Dover grew, it became necessary to allocate a designated space for such a purpose. Fourth Street is the final resting place for the founding families of the town. Here you will find markers bearing the names Deis, Slingluff, Deardorf and many others. The last burial at Fourth Street Cemetery

was in 1976. (taken from the City of Dover cemetery website)

9. Lifebridge Church—The first church structure on this corner was built in 1872 by the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1903 the brick structure was condemned by the state building inspector and the congregation built the current edifice, dedicated in June 1905. It was remodeled in 1924 and 1940. The Methodists moved to the north end of town in 1958 and the Salvation Army purchased the church to use as a new Christian Service Center. It became Lifebridge Church in 2009, and over the years the congregation has performed many restoration projects on the building.



10. Dover City Hall—The present city hall building was constructed in 1904. The bell from the former city hall was placed in its bell tower in 1906. It had been cast in 1887 in New York. The bell tower was removed from the structure in 1957. The city hall originally housed the fire department also, but a separate building was built for them in the late 1950s.

11. The Deardorff Fountain—The Deardorff Fountain was built by the C.W.A. The stone used in the fountain was from the home of Upton C. Deardorff, Dover's first municipal waterworks secretary and son of town founder Christian Deardorff. The home was at North Wooster Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street, now the site of the Masonic Temple.





12. Grace Lutheran Church—The church was organized in 1837 and with the German Reformed Church, built a shared church structure until the time of the Civil War, when the Lutherans purchased the former United Brethren church building at 108 West Third Street. A new church was completed in 1891. The current Grace Lutheran Church structure was dedicated in June

1959.

13. Wentz Building—The Wentz Building was constructed in 1906. The three story building contained rooms for the Alpha Pi and Phi Sigma Chi fraternities on the second floor and the Spanish Ballroom dance hall on the third floor. The ballroom was the center of social activity with dances and performances by many well-known musical groups, including Guy Lombardo. The ballroom closed in the 1940s. Over the years the first and second floors of the building housed a drug store, insurance agency, ice cream parlor, shoe repair shop, the Dover Chamber of Commerce, and barber shops. The original ceiling of the ballroom was made of pressed steel from the Reeves Manufacturing Company.



14. Rausch Building—The Rausch Building was constructed in 1914 as the Alvin J. Rausch Grocery Store. He scraped together the funds to buy the lot and built the store, sharing an architect with the Deis Fertig Company, who was building a warehouse further west on Third Street. Rausch had apartments put on the second floor to help with income. The store was full-service, meaning the clerks got the order ready for the shoppers—no walking up and

down aisles with a shopping cart. The store closed in 1943 when Alvin's two sons were called into the armed services for World War II.

15. Pythian Building—The Pythian Building cornerstone was laid in November 1923 and the building dedicated September 1, 1924. In the original plan the third floor was the lodge room, the second floor the club rooms and banquet room, and the first floor was intended to be rented out for business purposes. J C Penney’s occupied this business space in 1925. Over the years, J C Penney’s expanded into more and more of the building. It remained in the West Third Street location until 1977 when the store moved to Miracle Lane Plaza. The Pythian building was also sold in 1977 from the Pythian Castle organization which had been formed in 1922.



16. Bexley Theater—The Bexley Theater opened January 2, 1928. In 1929 the theater installed equipment to show talking motion pictures. Engineers check the acoustics of the theater and determined it was “ideal for this new era in entertainment.” The theater closed in 1980.

17. Lot 8—Home of Christian Deardorff, the founder of Dover. Lot 8 sits empty today, but it was once the home

of Christian Deardorff. Deardorff and two others founded Dover in 1807 and laid out the town’s plat map. He originally lived along the Sugar Creek and built a mill. In 1817 he built a home on Lot 8, also using the structure as a store and post office for the small village of Dover.



18. Iron City House/Riverside Inn—Today this is another empty lot along Front Street in Dover, but it was once the site of a bustling inn along the Ohio and Erie Canal. The first structure was built in around 1825 by George Slingluff as a store. It was later enlarged around 1860 and used as a hotel. From 1863 until the 1880s it was owned by David King and called the Iron City

House. The hotel was sold in 1905 and at some point renamed the Riverside Inn. At some point in time it became more of a tavern than an inn, being a well know night club in the 1930s. The building was torn down in 2006. Its wooden bar still exists in the lodge at Wood’s Tall Timber Resort.



19. Toll House and Historical Marker—The replica canal toll house on West Front Street represents the Ohio and Erie Canal and all that it meant to Dover. Dover was the only community in Tuscarawas County to have a toll house. This meant that every canal boat passing through heading north or south had to stop and pay a toll based on cargo or passengers. The presence of the toll house helped turn Dover into a commercial center. A statement of the shipments and receipts for 1850 is included in the 1884 *History of Tuscarawas County*, and gives an idea of the canal’s importance.

38,723 barrels of flour shipped

107,498 bushels of coal received

450,899 bushels of wheat received

53,714 pounds of coffee received

98,738 pounds of dried fruit shipped

993,520 pounds of iron ore shipped

213,658 pounds of pig and scrap iron received

579,546 pounds of pig and scrap iron shipped

684,243 pounds of merchandise received



20. Milling Industry Historic Marker and Park—Christian Deardorff erected a grist mill along the Sugar Creek soon after his arrival in the county in 1806. When the Ohio and Erie Canal was built in the late

1820s and early 1830s, he lost water power when a dam was built on the Sugar Creek and was given the rights to water power along the canal. Deardorff built the Dover Mills along the canal bank, eventually becoming the Cascade Mills. The blast furnace was built in the mid-1850s by the people of Dover. The Dover City Mills were built in 1842 by Nathaniel Hayden and Elijah Welty. The landscape looks very different today than it did at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



21. Herbert Hotel—Today it is another empty lot, but it was once a grand sight on the southeast corner of Factory and Second Streets. The Herbert Hotel was built by Daniel Defenbacher after purchasing the lot in 1899. The Herbert was named after Defenbacher’s youngest son. The hotel opened in 1900 as was “a paying venture from the start.” Defenbacher previously ran the Iron City House. Defenbacher was

involved in many interests throughout the city including the Ohio Shovel & Stamping Company, the First National Bank, and the Dover Building and Loan Company. He served as the mayor of Dover for four years.

22. 226 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street—Genevieve’s On Second—This structure began its life as a roller skating rink and was known at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century as the Casino Rink. In May 1907 it was purchased by Charles Beller and the



newspaper announced that it would continue to be used as a skating rink, and also the site for basketball games. This was the arena for Dover High School games until the Roosevelt High School building was erected in 1915. In 1920 the building was purchased by Oliver, Eugene, and Raymond Weaver who converted it to a car dealership and garage.





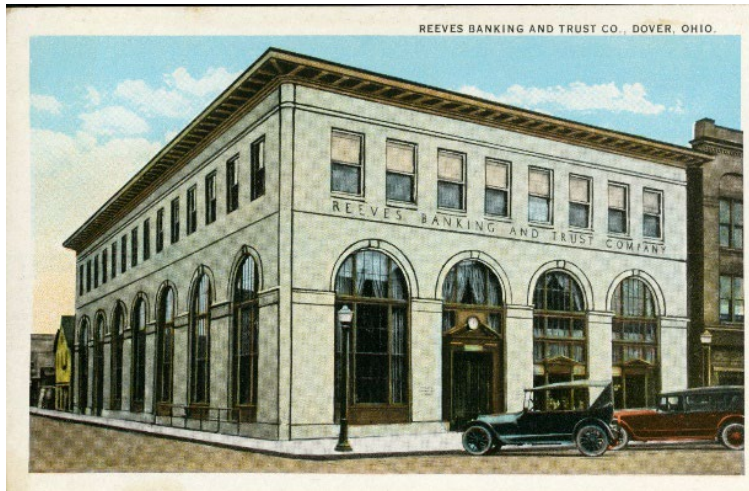
23. Deis Fertig building and Big Four Opera House— The left side of this large building was originally the Big Four Opera House. The Big Four opened in 1892 and held vaudeville show and civic events. The movies spelled the end for the Opera House and it was converted into a garage in 1915. It saw its heyday in its first ten years of operation. It was used as warehouse space for the Deis Fertig Wholesale Grocers and the stove works for the Reeves Manufacturing Company in

later years. The Deis Fertig Company was organized in 1878 by Christian Deis and George Fertig. They build the three story building beside the Opera House in 1911.



24. Deis Memorial YMCA— Andrew Deis donated the lot, worth \$25,000, for this building along with another \$75,000 to erect the structure. Upon his death he left money to help fund the organization. The cornerstone was laid in April 1928. The YMCA started in Dover in 1919 and met in the Brucks building, a building on

the corner of West 3<sup>rd</sup> and Factory, and a structure on the corner of Slingluff and Cross Streets before the Deis Memorial building was constructed. The building contained a gymnasium, swimming pool, and club rooms. The YMCA faced some hard years in the 1930s and 1940s, but gained momentum, and in September 1971 a new facility was dedicated on Monroe Street.



25. The Reeves Banking and Trust Company—The Reeves Bank opened for business in 1903 and this building was built in 1924. The Reeves Bank eventually operated eight bank branches and was the largest banking institution in Tuscarawas County in the late 1970s. In March 1982 the Reeves Bank merged with Huntington National Bank of Columbus, Ohio.



26. North side of West Third Street—Business District—The 200 block of West Third Street has been a focal point of commerce in Dover since the 1800s. Early photos show multiple store fronts and a hitching rail for patrons. Early shops included W. Greenberger Clothier, Charles Haas Cigars and Tobacco, Peters Drug Store, U.D. Ward

& Co. Dry Goods, Star Clothing, Brucks & Krantz Stoves and Tinware and Richards the Jeweler. Some of the buildings are gone today, such as the area where Magic Mugs and John's Sweeper are located. Eiler Candy and Pangrazio's, along with Miller's Creamery still occupy the old buildings.





27. Dover First Moravian Church—Dover First Moravian was established as a formal congregation in December 1842. A minister from Gnadenhutzen, Rev. Herman Tietze, came to Dover once a month to hold services beginning in 1840. A church building was started in 1843 and dedicated in May 1844. An interesting fact in the first set of church resolutions was that

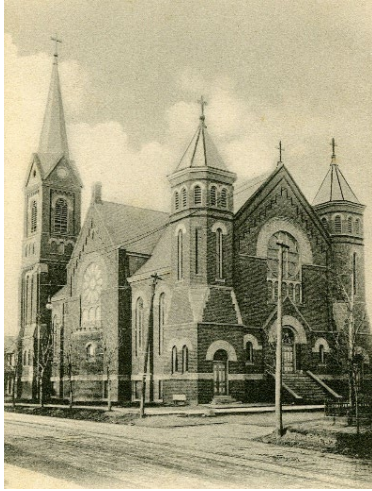
married brethren had to contribute one pound of candles monthly. In 1898 the church building was moved 20 feet to the east and in 1909 the building was moved to the back of the church's lot and a new church built on the front part. The first service was held in the new church in June 1910.

28. Ricksecker Home—515 North Walnut Street—The Ricksecker home was built by Israel Ricksecker in 1867 and remained in the family until the early 2010s, with five generations of the family having lived in the house. The front pillars of the home were from Christian Deardorff's home on Front Street. Israel Ricksecker came to Dover in 1837 and started the county's first jewelry store. The family was Moravian and very musically



inclined. They owned one of the first piano's in the area. Israel's son Julius followed in his father's footsteps and took over the family jewelry business. Son Theodore moved to New York City and worked for a druggist. He eventually began manufacturing high quality perfumes and toiletries, opening stores in London, Paris, Amsterdam, along with New York City. Son Rufus joined the 126<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry in 1862 during the Civil War. In June 1864 he became a first lieutenant and commander of Company G. Rufus was mortally wounded leading his men in the Battle of Opequan.

## Other Places of Interest



1. St. Joseph's Catholic Church—The first Catholic mass held in Dover was in 1835 in a house on Front Street. St. Joseph's parish was started in 1848 with a church building completed in 1850. The second church edifice was built in 1897 and condemned by the state in October 1962. It was demolished and the current church constructed, celebrating its first mass in November 1965. The first parochial school was part of the church parsonage built in 1857. A wood-frame school was built in 1866 and a new three story school completed in 1924.

2. Warther Carvings—The Ernest Warther

Museum and Gardens celebrates the genius of Ernest "Mooney" Warther. He began carving at age 5 after finding a pocket knife in the road while herding cows. He went on to carve for 82 years, creating over 60 works and earning the title World's Master Carver. The first museum opened in Warther's backyard in 1936. [Warthermuseum.com](http://Warthermuseum.com)



3. Maple Grove Cemetery—Maple Grove is a 40 acre cemetery laid out in 1886. Created during the Victorian era, the idea for the cemetery was a place for a serene, leisurely stroll. The first burial in this cemetery was Lewis Geckler. The cemetery is home to many large monuments and private mausoleums. Maple Grove is also the final resting place of children who died while residents of the Tuscarawas County Children's Home, once located on South Tuscarawas Avenue.

4. Famous Endings Museum—Famous Endings Museum is the funeral memorabilia collection of John Herzig at the Toland Herzig Funeral Home. Herzig started his collection in 1996 and today it contains over 2500 artifacts. The unique collection includes items from funerals of presidents, world



leaders, and celebrities. Each piece contains a story. [Tolandherzig.com/famous-endings-museum](http://Tolandherzig.com/famous-endings-museum)



5. Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds—The Tuscarawas County Agricultural Society was formed in 1849 and the first fair was held at Hayden’s Grove in Dover on October 15 & 16, 1850. The second fair in 1851 was held in New Philadelphia in the area around the county courthouse, and the need for a permanent fairgrounds became apparent.

There were differing ideas for a location, and in the end land was purchased in Dover and has been used since 1852 for the yearly fair with the exception of 1861 when it was a Civil War recruiting grounds and 2020 during the pandemic. The fairgrounds encompasses 29 acres. The first 1/3 mile racetrack was built in 1859 and a half mile track was built in 1872.



6. J. E. Reeves Home and Carriage House Museum—The Reeves Museum was the home of local steel industrialist Jeremiah E. Reeves and his family. Reeves purchased the home at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and remodeled it from an 8 room farmhouse to a 17 room mansion. At the time, it sat on the farmland between Dover and New Philadelphia and overlooked his steel mill. A unique feature of the museum is

the collection of furniture original to the home and family. The second floor of the Carriage House contains the history of the town and Ohio & Erie Canal.