

3. **East Ward School, 1900-1902**

400 E. South A Street

Researched by Megan Rice and Victoria Gleason

When this school was built, students in this area had an opportunity to further their education by attending grades 9-12. The first class graduated with seven students. This became Gas City's first high school. The school originally had a bell tower but it had to be removed in 1923 because the weight of it was causing damage to the school. An annex was added in 1923 to house the gym and library. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, it has been renovated and offers housing for senior citizens.

4. **John L. Thompson/Robert Ray House, 1902-1906**

407 E. Main Street

Researched by Shanea McKee and Eli Sabbagh

Mr. Thompson owned a factory and built this house using workers from his factory. The house has a hand-dug full basement. The stained glass windows in the house are from Germany. The tiles in the upstairs bathroom are from Czechoslovakia. There was a ballroom, kitchen and bathroom done in western motif in the attic. The house was eventually purchased by Robert and Marguerite Ray, who owned a grocery store in downtown Gas City. Mr. Ray served six terms as mayor of Gas City.

5. **Gas City Carnegie Public Library, 1913-14**

East Main Street

Researched by Janessa Bragg, Brianna King and Courtney Murphey

The people of Gas City wrote a grant to build a new library in 1913. Andrew Carnegie, a steel entrepreneur, gave \$12,500 as part of his grant program to help build the library. The first library was located in a small building just to the west of the current library, near where Mike Anderson Chevrolet's garage stands today. It was called the Phillips Library. The first librarian was Maude Fields. The paintings on display at the library are by local Grant County artists.

6. **Glenn Bastian House, 1920**

519 E. Main Street

Researched by Mick Noble and Tyler Herring

Glenn Bastian was an artist who liked to paint birds. He built the Spanish Eclectic house as a studio downstairs and his living quarters upstairs. The house was originally built without a kitchen because Mr. Bastian always ate out. He always wore a Hamburg hat and was very recognizable to the locals. He had two favorite restaurants, with favorite seats at each. If someone was sitting in his favorite seat when he arrived, he would hover and stare until the person finished or moved to another seat. Some of his paintings are highly valued. The Gas City Historical Society gets calls a couple times a year from as far away as California from those looking to locate one of Glenn Bastian's paintings.

7. **Walnut Creek Cemetery, 1838-Present**

East North H Street

Researched by Dylan Crist, Quinten Chapel, Sheni Howell

This cemetery was once considered "out in the country" on Cemetery Road. A log cabin church was located on the southeast corner of the cemetery. It is considered one of the oldest cemeteries in the county. Once, a tombstone of a Civil War soldier was misspelled so a new one had to be made. They took the misspelled tombstone and used it as part of the sidewalk at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Fratus. As Mr. Fratus was pulling up the old sidewalk behind his home to put in a new one, he discovered that the sidewalk he had walked on for many years was the back of a misspelled tombstone. The tombstone is on display at the Gas City Historical Society Museum.

8. **Riverside Cemetery, 1864-Present**

West Main Street

Researched by Allan Cropper, Dakota Dudley and Lee Hatten

The Riverside Cemetery was divided into four sections: Jonesboro, Bastian, IOOF and Riverside. The first person to be buried there was a woman named Carr in 1864. Some notable people buried there are: Noah Harris, founder of Harrisburg (later renamed Gas City), Glenn Bastian (artist) and Dr. R.J. Baskett, doctor of medicine, politician and Mississinewa School Board member.

1. **Mississinewa Hotel, 1893**

300-310 East Main Street
Researched by Austin Kern, Seth
McMullen and Ian Mill

With the gas boom came many companies and workers from all over the world. Gas City became a boom town and lacked housing for the workers. The Gas City Land Company decided to build the Mississinewa Hotel to accommodate the men. It was built in 6 months at a cost of \$42,000. It housed Gas City's first post office. The hotel was torn down but there is a plaque located on the site to commemorate the hotel. The arch located at the entrance to the hotel is planned to be put on display on Main Street near City Hall in the future.

2. **10th Street Bridge**

Researched by Ryan Todden, Dylan Fritch
and Travis Rish

Legend has it that a worker fell of the bridge when it was being built in the 1920s. Many people say that the bridge is haunted and have reported seeing an old man hanging from the bridge and screaming for help. The bridge actually used to be a swinging bridge with ropes. Most of the time people crossed the river by wading, but if it were too treacherous they would take the swinging bridge. A swinging bridge is similar to a suspension bridge. Today, it is a steel and concrete bridge, but is still believed to be haunted by the worker who passed away.

9. **West Ward School, 1902**

West North A Street
Researched by Joey Moore and Jordan
Armes

This school was built on the site of a three-room school house. When the gas boom hit, there was a need to build a bigger school to accommodate the growing numbers of students. This school housed 1st-8th grades, with no opportunities to go to high school until the East Ward School was built. Most students at that time graduated 8th grade then went back to work on the farms or factories in town. Today, the building houses the Gas City Historical Society Museum.

10. **Holy Family Catholic Church**

327 E. North A Street
Researched by Jared Smith and Austin
Bruneau

This church was built by the Welsh community in Gas City. The first cornerstone was laid in 1908 and the rest of the church was completed in 1910. The church's stained glass came from Germany. Most are valued at over \$500,000. Plexiglass covers the windows from the outside. More details are visible on the inside of the windows. Donors who gave money to purchase the windows have their names inscribed in the windows.

Gas City, Indiana History Walking Tour



Created by the
**R.J. Baskett
History Club**