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# *Wheeling through History*

## **The Strip District & Lawrenceville**

# The Strip District &

*Lawrenceville* was founded in 1814 by William Foster, father of composer Stephen Foster, who was born there in 1826. It is named for Captain James Lawrence, hero of the War of 1812, famous for his dying words, "Don't Give Up The Ship!" Lawrenceville was annexed to the city of Pittsburgh in 1868, and is now the city's largest neighborhood containing more river front property than any other. Today, Lawrenceville is undergoing an exciting revitalization. Housing has become a major draw for those looking to renovate older homes at a reasonable cost. Art galleries have opened up all along Butler Street, and the surrounding area, along with clothing boutiques, furniture stores, and a number of new restaurants, coffee shops, and bars.

## *Home of Stephen Foster (1826-1864)*

Born on July 4, 1826, while the country celebrated its 50th anniversary of independence, Stephen Foster has become Lawrenceville's most famous native son. He was the son of William Barclay Foster, founder of Lawrenceville and Eliza Tomlinson. Foster is considered by many to be the world's foremost composer, and is the only person to have written two state songs – "My Old Kentucky Home" (Kentucky) and "Swanee River" (Florida). A third song "Oh! Susanna" was considered by the state of California as being their state song, but it was rejected.

## *Allegheny Cemetery*

On April 24, 1844, Allegheny Cemetery was chartered as a tax-free, non-profit organization. It was Pittsburgh's first public park modeled after the fashionable romantic landscapes of English parks. Allegheny Cemetery is the sixth oldest rural cemetery in the United States.

## *Allegheny Arsenal*

The Arsenal was established by the U.S. Army Ordnance Department in Lawrenceville in 1814. The arsenal served as a supply and manufacturing center for the troops in the west. Its peak years came during the Civil War, when the manufacture of cartridges became a high priority. On Wednesday, September 17, 1862, around 2 pm, the arsenal exploded, causing the most civilian casualties during the war.

## *Shannopintown*

Shannopintown is an Indian village which existed somewhere in the neighborhood of Lawrenceville. During the French and Indian Wars, both the English and the French vied for this strategic Indian village. It was one of only a few significant settlements close to the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. Today, a state historical marker at the end of the 40th Street Bridge marks the approximate location.

## *Washington's Crossing*

On December 29, 1753, George Washington crossed the Allegheny River at a location which some historians believe is present day Lawrenceville. There is a plaque at the 40th Street Bridge marking this occasion.





# & Lawrenceville

## *Strip District Terminal Building*

*Pennsylvania Railroad*

*Fruit Auction Building*

*Smallman between 16th and 21st Streets*

By the 1920s the growing volume of produce being distributed through the Strip District caused tremendous traffic congestion in the produce yards. In 1926 the Pennsylvania Railroad constructed a new terminal on Smallman spanning five blocks from 16th to 21st streets. Dealers made purchases at the auction held daily in the east end of the building or from large wholesalers who displayed their samples on the terminal floor. Purchases were loaded on trucks directly from the railroad cars that lined the tracks between the terminal and the river. This building is owned by the City's Urban Redevelopment Authority who leases it to food and produce companies.



## *Armstrong Cork Factory*

The Armstrong Cork Factory was designed by the masterful Pittsburgh architect, Frederick Osterling in 1901 with an addition added in 1913. The factory has three sections all constructed in red brick in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, a popular style for industrial buildings during the early

1900s. It stands as the physical legacy of Thomas Armstrong who purchased a small cork-cutting operation in 1860 on Smithfield and Diamond streets, in Downtown Pittsburgh. Forty years later, he built the massive factory, one of the largest cork processing facilities in the world in the early 1900s. By 1930, it employed 1,300 people. Armstrong Cork Factory left Pittsburgh in 1974. This landmark structure was recently converted into 295 loft apartments.

## *Doughboy Square and Statue*

Perhaps the most recognizable, and arguably the most striking patriotic Pittsburgh sculpture is Lawrenceville's "Doughboy." Torn but triumphant, Doughboy looks down from his seven-foot pedestal upon the fork in the road at Penn Avenue and Butler Streets. He is the armed, eight and a half foot sentinel, silent, but having been witness to all the changes in Lawrenceville since 1921.

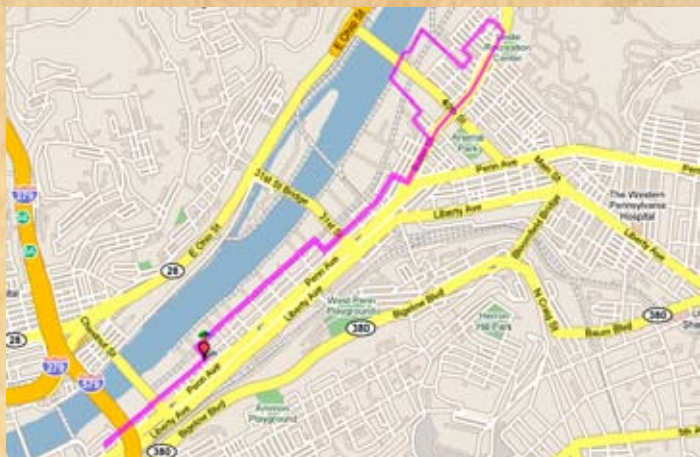
Lawrenceville's Arsenal Board of Trade had raised funds through a community carnival, but the war ended without the money having been distributed. More money was later raised and New York sculptor Allen Newman was chosen. Many were against the destruction of the comfortable bus stop and rest area, but 20,000 felt otherwise. During its dedication, a 21-gun salute was fired from the Allegheny Arsenal grounds.

## *Firehouse & Clemente Museum*

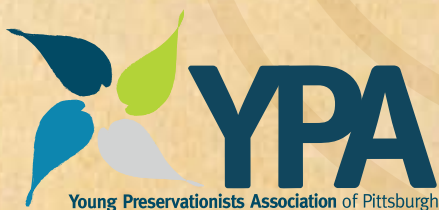
*3309 Butler St.*

No one can deny the historical importance of the material that's housed in the old No. 25 Engine House, but the building itself also is something of a treasure. Built in 1896, it served the Lawrenceville area until it closed in 1969. Until Rieder bought it in 1996, it had been used as an EMS station and a Pittsburgh Parks and Recreation office. Baseball legend Lou Gehrig is said to have slept there once on a visit to Pittsburgh.





*Strip District & Lawrenceville:  
10.6K (about 6.5 miles)  
A more detailed map can be found at  
<http://www.bikely.com/listpaths/srchkey/YPA>*



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