In 1796, Holland Land Company surveyors, Jonathan Titus and Samuel Kerr claimed the land that would become Titusville. They provided lodging for Native Americans, fur traders and lumbermen.

Sea Captain William Sheffield opened the first saw and lumber mill in 1816 and lumber soon became the primary industry of the region. Titusville was incorporated as a borough in 1847, and by 1859, 300 people had settled in town.

Edwin Drake came to Titusville in 1857 as an agent for the Seneca Oil Company. Oil was available in natural seeps along Oil Creek, but larger quantities and more efficient production methods were needed. Drake and his driller, Uncle Billy Smith, adapted existing soft well technology and their well struck oil on August 27, 1859, thus launching the modern oil industry in the Oil Creek Valley near Titusville.

The impact was immediate. People poured into Titusville and the surrounding area to buy oil leases and to work in business that grew up around the new industry. Churches, schools and mansions were built and banks were chartered. Refineries sprang up throughout the region and oil-related machinery was designed and produced here. Titusville’s growth led to incorporation as a city in 1886. Soon after, in 1881, the world’s first oil exchange was established here.

Known as the “Queen City” for its rich cultural amenities, Titusville was home to the region’s first opera house and others followed. Its architecturally significant churches, homes and commercial buildings are described for your enjoyment on this walking tour.

This project was financed in part by a Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program Grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, via the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism. Additional financing was furnished by the City of Titusville, National City Bank, Tom McKinney, Titusville Renaissance, The John Neffit Rees and Sarah Heine Rees Charitable Foundation, Benson Memorial Library, and Drake Well Museum and Park.

The 2013 brochure update was financed by the County of Crawford, the Crawford Heritage Foundation, the Titusville Renaissance, Inc., and the Titusville Historical Society via the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism.

Welcome to historic Titusville! Here you will discover some of our treasures from the days of the early oil industry. Titusville’s ties to oil are still evident in the rich architectural diversity, and in the stories of some of its earlier citizens.

Developed by:
Titusville Chamber of Commerce
Benson Memorial Library
Drake Well Museum & Park
Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism
City of Titusville
The Titusville Historical District was approved by the United States Department of the Interior, 1985. The District is a compact representation of Titusville’s built environment as it developed from the beginning of the oil industry in 1859 through the turn of the century.

The District includes more than 450 homes, churches, and commercial structures, twenty-three of which are described in this walking tour brochure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Drake Well Museum
202 Museum Lane, Titusville, PA 16354
814.827.2797, www.drakewell.org

Benson Memorial Library
213N. Franklin Street, Titusville, PA 16354
814.827.2913, www.ccfls.org/benson

City of Titusville
107 N. Franklin Street, Titusville, PA 16354
814.827.5300, www.cityoftitusvillepa.gov

Sources:
Titusville of Yesterday, published by Titusville Historical Society, 1984
The Titusville Herald, various

Please respect the privacy of the owners of these properties. The residences featured in this tour are not open to the public.

For more information on these structures see inside.
1. **HISTORIC TRAIN STATION**
   - Since the freight station was renovated in 1985, it has been a focal point of the city. It is a restoration of the original 1910 station.

2. **ITTSVILLE IRON WORKS COMPANY**
   - Constructed in 1886, this building was a landmark for the local iron industry. It housed the main offices and workshops.

3. **SECOND NATIONAL BANK**
   - This building, completed in 1865, is one of the oldest commercial structures in the city. It was originally a bank and later housed various businesses.

4. **ALBANY BUILDING**
   - Completed in 1849, this building was a significant commercial and residential property. It underwent several renovations and additions over the years.

5. **ITTSVILLE TRUST COMPANY**
   - Founded in 1910, this bank was a center for both business and community activities.

6. **ITTSVILLE OIL EXCHANGE**
   - Established in 1872, this exchange was a hub for oil trading and shipping.

7. **BENSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**
   - This library, built in 1925, is one of the oldest public libraries in the city.

8. **CHARLES HYDE HOUSE**
   - The architecture of this house, built in 1865, reflects Victorian influences.

9. **ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
   - Constructed in 1865, this church is a notable example of Gothic Revival architecture.

10. **GEORGE COTTER HOUSE**
    - Italianate brick homes were influenced by both the Italian Renaissance and the Greek Revival. They consisted of two stories with low-pitched roofs and wide overhanging eaves.

11. **JOSEPH SEEP HOUSE**
    - This house, built in 1889, is a notable example of Italianate style with its wide front porch and Greek Revival columns.

12. **WILLIAM VILLAGE HOUSE**
    - The Greek Revival style was popular in the mid-19th century. It features a pedimented entrance and a symmetrical facade.

13. **JOHN H. SCHROEDER HOUSE**
    - This house was built by Charles L. Malby, a local architect. It features a notable pedimented entrance.

14. **PENDELTON HOUSE**
    - This house, built in 1870, is a notable example of the Greek Revival style.

15. **PENN Refinery**
    - Founded in 1891, this refinery is one of the oldest in the city.

16. **THE EMPIRE STYLE**
    - The Empire style, which is characterized by its geometrically patterned walls, is a notable feature of this era.

17. **VILLA STYLE**
    - This style, introduced in the 1890s, features arched openings and a more ornate design.

18. **KINGSTON HOUSE**
    - Completed in 1882, this house is a notable example of the Italianate style.

19. **TARBELL HOUSE**
    - The house, located on the main street, is a notable example of the Italianate style.

20. **JOHN MATHER HOUSE**
    - This house, built in 1889, is a notable example of the Italianate style with its wide front porch.

21. **MCKINNEY HALL**
    - This hall, built in 1871, is a notable example of the Italianate style.

22. **THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
    - This church, built in 1849, is a notable example of the Italianate style.

23. **THE SISTERS OF MERCY**
    - The Sisters of Mercy, founded in 1870, is a notable example of the Italianate style.

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