



CHESS PARK GAZEBO

In the late 1700's Adam Wickerham decided to settle along the Monongahela River; he bought the land that now includes the western half of our city from the property's original owner. Wickerham laid out the section of West Main Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets as a village, which he called Georgetown in 1807. In 1816 he signed papers allowing it to be annexed to the neighboring village of Williamsport, the other half of our present city. After Wickerham's death, the property west of Sixth Street was inherited by his daughter Mary Chess.

Mary and her husband decided to build a house on the largest of the lots. She built a two story brick house facing Main Street. Later around the 1900's, the Friday Afternoon Conversational Club started to use the Chess House as their clubhouse. Due to the efforts of the community, the house was demolished and a public park was then created, including crossing sidewalks still present today. These improvements, in addition to the placement of a fountain in the center, were made in 1920.

The fountain was ultimately replaced by our present gazebo, constructed by Joseph Dubrovich, Jr. of Rostraver Township in 1979, and has since been the center of the community's activities.