

**Trumbull County Historical Society**  
**8th Grade In-School Program**

**Program:** Building a City

**Goal:** Students will analyze the impact of choices made by individuals and businesses on both present and future downtown Warren communities using a circa 1870 map.

**Relevant Content Statements from 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Standards (U.S. STUDIES FROM 1492 TO 1877: EXPLORATION THROUGH RECONSTRUCTION)**

13. Modern and historical maps and other geographic tools are used to analyze how historic events are shaped by geography.
22. Choices made by individuals, businesses and governments have both present and future consequences.

**Experience Overview:**

1. A copy of a map of downtown Warren circa 1870 provided to each student. Also project an 1800's recreated image of a Warren downtown map that shows how green spaces outnumbered developed businesses and homes.
  - a. Discussion question: What was life like back then socially, culturally? (Warren wasn't always a steel manufacturing community. What was life like before cars?) What businesses might have been present or needed?
2. Students break into groups of 3-4. They will be asked to imagine they represent a business woman or man, and have X amount of money to invest in the downtown area.
  - a. Each group will choose from the list of optional builds (carousel, city park, general store, restaurant, blacksmith, school, hotel, granary, steel mill, clothing store, haberdashery, etc., with cost amounts for each.
  - b. Each group will also have a specific street location to build on (based on the 1870 Warren map)
  - c. Groups must work within their given budget.
3. Group questions to guide their selection include: What would I add and why? Where will it go on the street? Why is this particular building needed and why is it a priority?
  - a. Provide markers or colored pencils for students to add business(es) to their map.
4. Groups write responses to reflection questions which can include: How would my business(es) help the City of Warren? What impact on your neighborhood or the city today might your builds create?
  - a. Provide paper for students to journal their responses.
  - b. Provide closing discussion time of sharing ideas.
6. If time allows, we will project images from archival postcards of the era and later to demonstrate historically what did develop, and how it looked (if there is not enough time, those images will be electronically given to the teacher to use as a follow up activity).

Follow up Questions for Continued Discussion:

1. How did Warren move from agricultural to industrial?
2. What happened in Warren during the Civil War and during Reconstruction? (Rutherford B. Hayes dedicated the Civil War Memorial in 1882 in downtown Warren.)