

Downtown Mural

Stevens Point's Most Influential Events

The "Most Influential Events" mural was created by Kelly Meredith to depict important events and developments in the first 150 years of Stevens Point's history.

Unlike previous murals that were painted as a continuous flat panel, "Most Influential Events" is presented in several pieces, some of which overlap to give it depth. Each person's shape is cut out individually and the people are displayed in front of images of places where the influential events took place.

The mural is attached to the west wall of 1035 Main St., which is just east of the Portage County Library. The space between the two buildings, where you would stand to view the mural, is a covered walkway between Main St. and the parking lot on Clark St. to the south.



The people, places, and events depicted in the mural are described on the following pages.



Starting from the Main St. end of the covered walkway, the first two people are Joshua Hathaway and George Stevens. Hathaway was the first to survey the area around the Wisconsin River and helped pave the way for future development. George Stevens created the "Point" of Stevens Point as a rest stop and storage area.



This lumberjack, also known as a river rat, helped guide the logs down river to the saw mills and paper mills. He was one of the early pioneers of Stevens Point, which is still known as "The Gateway to the Pineries."



The red building with the worker standing in front of it is the Point Brewery, the city's longest established business, which was started by George Ruder and Frank Wahle in 1857.

The Polish immigrant girl represents one of hundreds of immigrant school children that passed through the first school established in Stevens Point. Next to her is the school's first teacher, Mandana Hale Bliss.



This railroad conductor stands in front of the Wisconsin Central Railroad Depot on the city's South side. The railroad was very important in bringing people, business, and goods to Stevens Point.



These men represent some of the workers at the first paper mill in Stevens Point, which was built in 1918 and employed many Stevens Point residents.



At the south end of the walkway, Carl Jacobs stands in front of the Hardware Mutual Insurance building, which is now home of Sentry Insurance. Carl helped expand the insurance company nationwide. His father, P.J. Jacobs, is featured on the "10 Most Influential Citizens" mural just up the block on Clark St, across from the building seen in this painting.