



DOWNTOWN Hidden Gems Scavenger Hunt

(from VISIT LOCAL 2022! Questions? Call 828-883-3700.)

- 1. FIND IT! ETERNAL FLAME.** The American Legion, with its mission “to enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness,” was established in Brevard in 1949. In 2003, its members installed and dedicated an eternal flame to honor all service men/women who were held as prisoners of war or were missing in action. The inscription on the stone marker reads “In memory of all POW/MIAs. May this eternal flame burn in your hearts forever. We will never forget.” **Can you find the eternal flame at the American Legion building at the Morgan Street entrance?**
- 2. FIND IT! 9/11 MEMORIAL.** The City of Brevard Fire Department was one of 1,027 communities from across the United States and six foreign countries that received a steel artifact from one of the World Trade Center Towers. Communities had to send in a request to the Port Authority for an artifact, and then the NY Port Authority chose who would receive artifacts. We were all affected by the attacks on September 11, 2001, and Brevard firefighters took this step to honor the lives lost and courage shown. The memorial is displayed facing the W. Main Street sidewalk and has embedded lighting to make the artifact visible at night. The memorial was unveiled during a ceremony on the morning of September 11, 2011. **Can you find the memorial?**
- 3. FIND IT! PRESIDENT WILLIAM TAFT'S SIGNATURE.** Brevard has always been a destination for visitors from all over the country, and hotels have been an integral part of the town's history and growth. Built in 1901, the Aethelwold Hotel is the largest hotel in Brevard from the early twentieth century still standing. Originally owned by the locally prominent McMinn family, the Aethelwold Hotel owes its unique name to John McMinn's wife, Ethel (“Aethel”). The Aethelwold held many events including meetings, banquets, fundraisers, and dances. However, the dances could cause controversy. In fact, after a dance in the Aethelwold, city fathers voted to “stop public dancing” due to its supposed promotion of immoral and indecent behaviors. As recorded in the hotel guestbook, famous visitors to the hotel include John D. Rockefeller and former President William Howard Taft. The Aethelwold now houses condos and offices, but folks can still visit the lobby of the original hotel with an entrance on Broad near Main. **Can you find where President Taft signed the guest book in the lobby of the Aethelwold?** NOTE: Aethelwold lobby doors are locked in the evenings and on the weekends.

4. FIND IT! THE NEWEST LOCATION OF THE TRANSYLVANIA TIMES. The local paper Transylvania Times (TTimes) has been a rich, integral part of the community since its founding (as the Transylvania Pioneer) in 1887. There are many stories about the paper. For instance, rumor has it that when the TTimes was located in Times Arcade Alley, local ruffians once tossed the printing presses out the second-floor window. And before moving to its current location, the TTimes called a former auto repair shop home, where, when new technology came in, they created a printing press “graveyard” under the lower floor because there was no other practical way to remove them. The new location is found on Main Street not far from the Visitor Center. **Can you find the new location of the TTimes?**

5. FIND IT! BROMFIELD INN. Nestled on two wooded and beautifully landscaped acres between two other historic buildings, St. Philips Episcopal Church and the Silvermont mansion, the Bromfield Inn is a beautiful house built in 1926 in the colonial revival style. The original owner, James S. Bromfield, was a prominent Brevard businessman with holdings in laundry, coal, oil and ice companies. He was one of the founding members of our local Chamber of Commerce and was also instrumental in the development of the Citizens Telephone Company, which still provides service to the community as Comporium. Bromfield’s home is now a lovely bed and breakfast on what is now known as Woodside Drive. **Can you find the Bromfield Inn?**

6. FIND IT! WPA MURAL “GOOD NEWS.” In 1935 the W.P.A., Works Progress Administration, was established to provide jobs to millions of unemployed Americans during the Great Depression. Most people are familiar with the many public works construction projects. A lesser known aspect of the W.P.A. is Federal Project Number One which offered work to thousands of artists, musicians, actors and writers through several federal projects. The Federal Art Project commissioned over 200,000 pieces of art in the form of murals, posters, photography, sculpture and other formats. Much of the commissioned artwork was created within municipal buildings and public spaces. In 1941, Pietro Lazzari’s “Good News” mural was commissioned for the newly opened Brevard Post Office, a Public Works Administration project. When the Brevard Post Office moved to its current location, the mural no longer fit in the building. It was relocated to its current home on the second floor of the Transylvania County Library in the Rowell Bosse North Carolina (NC) Room. **Can you find the mural?** NOTE: The NC Room hours are M & Th, 9:30am-8pm; Tu-We & Fr, 9:30am-5:30pm; Closed Sa & Su.

