

# Museum Cannons



In April of 1899 Cory Post #261 of the G.A.R. gave two cannons to the village of Wayne as a Civil War veterans memorial. They were shipped from Fort Monroe, Virginia and erected in a small park in the town square after a public fundraising effort.



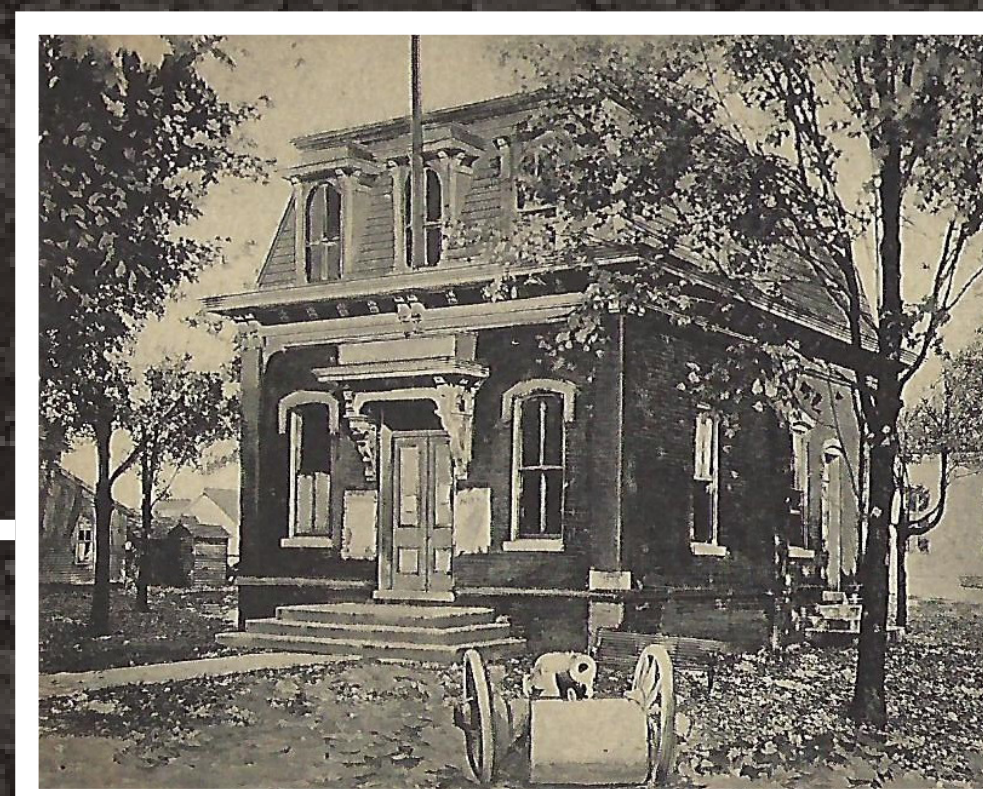
The cannons themselves were Civil War surplus, made in Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania in 1865. They were of the type used in coastal forts and fired a 42-pound shot 2,000 yards. The cannons have probably never been fired in their lifetime.



During Urban Renewal in the late 1960s the park was destroyed, but the two cannons were saved and moved to a new home in front of the Historical Museum. The cannons weigh four tons each, and were no match for the tow truck that tried to originally move them.



At one time there was another cannon in Wayne. This cannon was privately owned by Dr. J. W. Convis and he would set it off around town on holidays, especially 4th of July. Dr. Convis got in trouble one year however for blowing out the windows of a local hardware store with it. His wife donated it to the Village in 1889.



The cannon was installed in front of the Village Hall and made inoperable, but for the next 40 years pranksters would steal the canon, fix it and set it off every 4th of July, much to the annoyance of the Village Marshal. In 1936 Henry Ford requested the cannon for his Greenfield Village, so the Wayne Village government, happy to get rid of the nuisance gave Mr. Ford the cannon.



The large green flower urn in front of the museum is also a Wayne artifact. It was originally a horse watering trough, with smaller troughs on the sides for dogs. A horse can be seen drinking from it in this photo, with the museum in the background.