

## **411 W. Pine St.**

*Listed as a Local Landmark December 1, 2014*



### **Significant dates**

1860s - Soda Water Bottling Works

1865 - Phillip Gross constructs a Brewery at the mouth of the cave and uses the cave as cold storage.

1873 - Brewery building lost to arson. Carrie Nation, nationally infamous prohibitionist, believed to have been involved.

1882 - Brewery production exceeds 2,000 barrels annually

1891 - Brewery sold to Mr. Antone of St. Louis.

1910 - Brewery sold to Franz Murche

1918 - Brewery closed due to the passage of the 18th Amendment making the consumption of alcohol a crime.

1937 - City purchased building and used stones to build a retaining wall on the east end of Shepard's Park.

1940s - Boeing World War II air raid shelter

## 411 W. Pine St.

The structure is a naturally formed cave approximately 50' wide x 100' deep. Though still considered a living cave, there are no stalactite or stalagmite growth due to modifications made throughout the centuries changing the air flow, humidity, and other natural characteristics. Even with these modifications, it is possible that archaeological and/or historical information of value may be preserved in the cave.

The historical uses of the property have contributed to the unique history of Warrensburg and the region. Soda water bottling was a significant industry throughout this region and accompanied attractions such as Pertle Springs and Electric Springs. The 1873 arson of the brewery structure may have had a role in the early temperance movement, which eventually led to the passage of the 18th Amendment. While the brewery was active, modifications were made to the cave in order to accommodate its operations. The cobblestone pavers, shown below, were laid during the 1870s to move brewery carts back and forth along the floor of the cave.

The most recent use of the cave was as a community air raid shelter during World War II. The Boeing Company added electricity and bored air holes in the ceiling of the cave. The electrical wiring has all since been removed, but the bore holes are still in existence. It is unclear when the wall at the entry of the cave was constructed.



Cobblestone pavers were laid in the cave in the 1870s to accommodate brewery operations.

Photograph taken November 4, 2014.



Air holes were bored in the cave ceiling by the Boeing Company in the 1940's to convert the cave to a community air raid shelter.

Photograph taken November 4, 2014.



102 S. Holden

Warrensburg, MO 64093

660-747-9135

[www.warrensburg-mo.com](http://www.warrensburg-mo.com)