

Location:

303 Sorg Street
St. Marys, PA

County:

Elk

Description:

Business expansion loan

Total Project Cost:

\$2,311,562



Straub Brewery Inc.

People:

Long before every town had a taproom, St. Marys had The Eternal Tap. Flowing since 1872, it's been an edge-of-the-forest pilgrimage site for those seeking the very freshest samples of Straub, the honestly fresh beer. The craft beer revolution and the taproom craze taught the brewing world what the Straub family has known since the 19th Century: Beer is tastiest when it's an experience. So what's a pioneering brewery to do in the 21st Century? The answer: create what Vice President Vince Assetta calls "a campus." A tapcampus, if you will.

Progress:

With help from Sen. Joe Scarnati, Straub combined state funds, their own resources, and a \$1,344,000 loan from The Progress Fund. That covered the purchase of neighboring properties and construction

of a taproom with indoor and outdoor seating, gift shop, beer garden and walkway to the brewery, plus conversion of a house into event space.

Impact:

The four-acre campus serves all of Straub's varieties, of course, plus a food menu featuring smoked meats, beer sauces and pickled vegetables. It's been a hit with locals and with many of the half-million annual visitors to the surrounding Pennsylvania Wilds. In addition to money, says Vince, The Progress Fund brought to the project a bigger concept: "The town of St. Marys, our home for 150 years, becoming a welcoming gateway community to the Pennsylvania Wilds."

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