

WALKING TOUR AROUND THE SQUARE

Tour 3-East Avenue

Created originally, in part, for the Heritage Day in 1985,
probably by Town Historian, Irene Meyers

Re-typed & expanded by Heather Stevens 2009 Village Historian



(At one time this was known just as East Street)

Starting point is the corner where the Mobil Convenience Express is located (2009).

A. Sweet-Chargo Home: (680 Main Street North) Next to the Traub building where the Mobil Convenience Express is now (2009) located was the site of the first building in Central Square, a home also used as a tavern. It was built as early as 1812-13 by Chester Loomis who came from West Monroe. In 1820 Nicholas Roosevelt bought the tavern and used it as a home until he moved to Skaneateles in 1839. In 1864 Samuel Sweet bought the building. He moved part of it to Pleasant Ave (Factory Street) and part to a location on the east side of Mallory St. Then in 1879 he built one of the most beautiful homes in the village. It was a show place for many years with its fountain, many flowers and spacious lawn. His daughter, Julia Sweet Chargo lived there until her death in 1931. Dr. Welcome Hanor became the owner. It was made into apartments and a nursing home called the Ronah. He finally sold it to the Atlantic Company in 1950 the house was torn down by Lloyd Weaver to make way for a service station. Then it was sold to Rosemary and Joseph Wiedenbeck Jr. The station was remodeled and today is the Mobil gas station.

B. Goettel Block: On the site of the Goettel Block there has been two business blocks, both destroyed by fire. In 1827 Rufus Tiffany built a store known for years as the “Old Yellow Store”. In 1865 C. E. Coville opened a mercantile store there. He was succeeded by the Coville Brothers, Myron and George. George Coville was the post master and N. W. Bates had a drug store. Other parts of the building housed a law office, a shoe shop, and a harness shop. The building was burned in 1897 when grease boiled over in the harness shop run by John Carp and Peter Woodin. (Peter was the son of Rev. Peter

Woodin).

George Elliott and Clate Bates erected a three-story steel covered building on the site in 1898 which was the center of business activity. Clayton House bought the drug store in 1915 for \$4,258.00 from Clate Bates. On October 1, 1946 L. William Graffouliere bought the drug store from Clate House. There was a hardware store run by Will Hunt and later sold to Ausman and Madison (Mattison). The Houses and Madison (Mattison) families lived on the second floor. Also on the second floor was Dr. Webb's Dental Office and Mr. Coe's telephone office. The third floor was occupied by the Masons and Eastern Stars. There was also a hall used for movies, traveling shows and dances. A narrow addition built on the side of the building was used by the post office and for Mr. Elliott's office. In the back of the second floor, Mr. Elliott had a store where he sold all manner of things he bought from the railroad after accidents; damaged furniture, gadgets, just about everything.

The disastrous fire of Christmas Eve 1926 destroyed the Bates-Elliott Block, together with the Methodist Church, the William Church Building and the Sauter House. The heat was so intense that windows were broken in the Low-Coville Block across the road.

This block was replaced by the Goettel Block built in 1927.

C. Dr. Penoyer's Office: (3222 East Avenue) The brick building on the corner of East Avenue and Co. Rt. 12/Old Mallory Road, is now an apartment house and the office of Dr. Harry C. Penoyer, D.D.S. This was the Methodist Church. The first Methodist Church was built on this site in 1845. Also in the mid 1970's this building was the location of Village Casuals.

D. Hoyt Home: (3208 East Avenue) Built in 1907, was the home of Emily Hoyt. Emily was a lifetime resident of Central Square. She served as Village and Town historian. In 1959 she began writing a column in the Citizen Outlet called "Let's Reminisce" recording the history of our area. She retired February 5, 1970.

E. McKinley Home (3200 East Avenue) Home of John and Elizabeth McKinley. John built the first gas station in the village on South Main Street (Today, 2009, is a diner). When he died in 1971 he was the oldest living resident. Mr. McKinley was also a village trustee for many years.

F. Gugliotta Home (Formerly 165 East Avenue) Today (2009) is the Route 49 Park, owned by the Village of Central Square. The Gugliotta muck farm was located on East Ave (Rt. 49) before the rail road tracks. In about 1928, the Gugliotta's bought 18 acres from Mr. Lewis Woodcock. There was little more than tall grass, bushes, an old out house and a fresh water spring. In 1931 they built a house on this property and it was removed in about 1985. The family built a vegetable stand next to the house (and later moved it to the opposite side of Webb Ave. and ran until the 1970's). There also was, for a time, an old trolley car and it sat on the property by the road. Mrs. Gugliotta had flowers planted all around it.

**At this point cross East Avenue to the south side and proceed west back towards the center of the village.

G. Coville Home: (3181 East Ave) Henry and Mabel Coville built this home. Records show them living here as early as 1924. After Mabel died, Henry, his daughter, Betty Yates and her two children Elizabeth (Mary Elizabeth) and Robin (Robert Coville Yates) lived in the home on East Ave. Henry Dart Coville, was a banker, State assemblyman, Oswego County Judge and the first County Attorney. He was born 10 April 1872 in Central Square. He maintained his home in Central Square his entire life even though when he served as Oswego County Judge he lived at 121 W. Fifth Street in Oswego. He commuted to Central Square several times a week to carry out his duties as bank president and attorney. He was founder in 1914 and served as the first president of the First National Bank of Central Square for 40 years. When Henry died, his daughter received the Coville Home and other real estate (including contents) in Central Square.

H. Yorkey Home: (3201 East Ave) Charles J. Yorkey Sr. was born April 14, 1885 in North Dakota. He was orphaned at the age of 10 and lived with his uncle in Cleveland and later another uncle in Parish. He graduated high school with honors and then in 1906, after earning his own way through, graduated from Cornell Law School. When he moved to Central Square he became partners with Henry D. Coville and later started his own firm. Charles wed Martha Gibbs of Utica. They had a daughter who died at birth and then two sons, Daniel G. and Charles J. Yorkey Jr. Charles Yorkey Jr. followed in his fathers footsteps and served as Village Mayor from 1945-1951.

I. Masonic Temple: (3215 East Ave) It was built in 1925 by the H. P. Goettel Lumber Co. It has been used temporarily by the school and the library. It was also used for movies, dances and village activities.

J. Public Square: (94 Public Square) The LeFever Block was formally known as the Low- Coville Building. Early buildings on this site burned and later were replaced by the present brick structure about 1880. In later years businesses were conducted by Lows and Devitts. In 1940 Mr. George Devitt sold his store to Taylor and Everson for a Red and White Super Market.

K. Obelisk Monument: The tall soldiers monument in the center of the village was purchased in March 1949 by a committee of the Town of Hastings and was set up in May. The cost of the monument was \$1,920. It was paid for by popular subscription and the average amount given by each family was \$3. It reads "Dedicated to the men and women of the Town of Hastings who helped preserve us a free nation". Central Square's first Band Stand was built in about 1888 on land belonging to Mr. George Elliot, located on the center of "The Square" where the soldiers' monument now stands. The historic gazebo style band stand was at one time source of a lot of pride and often decorated with flags and bunting during community celebrations. There were seats all around in it where people could rest and view the scenery. It stood for many years as an ornament of the village and in the summer the band gave concerts there. On this same spot there were a large set of scales which the farmers could drive their loads of hay or whatever needed to be weighed. It "came down" in about 1911.

End of East Avenue Tour. If you would like to continue from this point please view Walking Tour 4- Main Street South or Walking Tour 6- Webb Avenue.