

## WALKING TOUR AROUND THE SQUARE

### Tour 1-Fulton 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



Starting point is Bank of America on Fulton Avenue in Central Square, NY. Then move up that side of Fulton Avenue to the village limits where you will arrive at the Ada Powell Smith Park. This street use to be called West Street (as early as the 1920's).

**A. Bank of America:** (3235 Fulton Avenue) First built in 1921 this was originally First National Bank. The original part of this building is in the center. It was later (1955) enlarged by adding to both sides of the building. It 1968 it became the Oneida National Bank. Later it was known as Norstar Bank, Fleet Blank and now Bank of America.

**B. Parking Lot of Bank of America:** On this site in 1834, Robert Elliott, one of the early settlers of the village, built a home that at one time was on the Historical Register and was the oldest home in Central Square. Near the house there was a wagon shop where the first vehicle called the "mud wagon" and the first stagecoach were built. The mud wagon was used to carry mail over the old Salt Road. The first stagecoach carried mail between Watertown and Syracuse. At a later date, the wagon shop was moved to Pleasant Avenue and made into an apartment house that was still in use in 1985. Later H. C. Low lived in the home. Most may still recall when Dr. William Birrell and his family lived there (1940's). The home was torn down by the Oneida National Bank in 1984 to make room for a larger parking lot.

**C. Behind the parking lot:** Behind this parking lot stood a water tower that is still capture on the village banners and the decal on the village trucks. The water tower was built in 1930 and was removed in 2007.

**D. First Universalist Church:** (3243 Fulton Ave) The Universalist Society dates from

1906 when 24 enthusiastic people met and it was organized. The lot was purchased in October 1907. On June 8, 1908 a contract between the building committee and Mr. Abraham and Mr. Herman Goettel was signed. The cost of the building, including all equipment and the kitchen was \$4,666.29. Dedication of the new church was January 2, 1909.

**E. Agway:** (3247 Fulton Ave) John Beeby and Jusdon Skillings conducted a wagon shop near where the Agway now stands; the Skillings' house was to the west of the shop. Later owners were George Varney and Thomas Shepard. The building burned (1904) and Thomas Shepard built the present structure. Later owners were Ray Sauter and Bill Sellers. It was managed at a later date by Agway. The Agway Feed Store was a supplier of baby chicks, ducks, geese and turkeys in the spring. They also sold pet supplies, feed for livestock, plants and fertilizer for the garden.

**F. Gould Goettel Home:** About 8 homes west of Agway, 1 house west of O'Connell Law Firm is the home of Gould and Mabel Goettel from about 1920 or 1921 until 1942. Prior to that it was owned by Abraham Goettel. In 1942 the home was purchased by Lowell and Ruth Gregg. They built a garage, screened the front porch and did extensive interior remodeling. Even earlier this home was called the Griswold Place. Esther Owen Griswold and her son Albert Grisold (later in 1897-98 he preached at the First Baptist Church) lived here. From 1907-1910 John McKinley and his mother owned and lived here. John built the first gas station in Central Square. Next John Carver and his family moved in. In the front yard there was an apparently bottomless well. Water was obtained by lowering a pail on a rope and then drawing it up. Lowell Gregg filled the well with stones many times and each time they disappeared. After a long time of doing this he finally filled it in. The old house number 161 is on the home.

**G. H. P. Goettel Home:** (3275 Fulton Ave) Built in 1911, was the home of Herman and Eva Goettel. Mr. Goettel was a leader in our community; he served on the school board, was Mayor of Central Square and was instrumental in securing the water system for the village. He also built 3 of the 4 churches in the village.

**H. Arnold Goettels Home:** (3281 Fulton Ave) Arnold and Marjorie Goettel once lived in this home. Marjorie was President of the Board of Trustees for the library and a teacher in the North Syracuse School district for more than five years. Arnold had a good baritone voice, was an accomplished pianist and sang in his church choir. After college he joined his brother, Vernon, in the family business and took charge of the Community Feed Mill division. He was active in community affairs and the church (which he was a strong supporter all of his life). He served as president of the Universalist Church, a member of the masons and served on the village planning board. He was co-owner in the Goettel Corp. which operated not only the H. P. Goettel lumber Co. and the Community Feed Mill, but also Goettel Hardware and Supply.

**I. Cleveland Home:** (3293 Fulton Ave) Former home of Guy and Nellie Cleveland. I found in 1890 Guy worked on the Erie Canal. In March 1902 he and his wife moved to Central Square from Fulton.

**J. American Legion Post 915:** (3301 Fulton Ave) The Fuller Taylor hall was built after World War II. It was named after Glen Fuller and Gerald Taylor who lost their lives in 1917 during World War I. The US Air Force plane parked out front was used in World War II.

**K. Ada Powell Smith Park:** Named after Ada Powell Smith, a resident of Central Square who passed away in 1955. She took on many projects which would better our village and those who live here. She was a lover of books, nature and the art. The 21.6 acre nature Park on State Route 49, Named for Mrs. Powell, was designated to remain forever wild, and consists of wetlands, scenic overlooks, an open field and streams with various wildlife and plants.

At this point cross Fulton Avenue to the other ((north side) and continue walking east towards the center of the village.

**L. Hillside Memorial Cemetery Park:** From this point you can enter our village cemetery. The first burial here was in April 16, 1822 of Anna Goodspeed. Originally there were only 5 acres but more land has been added over the years.

**M. Goettel Lumber Company:** The building formerly known as The Goettel Lumber Company is now a laundry and an apartment house. In the early 1900's, Abraham Goettel owned many acres on Fulton St. On a part of that property, Herman Goettel and his father, Abraham Goettel started the Goettel Lumber Company in about 1910. It was carried on by his family for over seventy years. Later years Vernon and Arnold Goettel ran it. In 1980 the building was purchased by the Penoyer family who made it into the Village Laundry with an apartment in the rear.

**N. H. P. Goettel Company:** Next to the laundry is the building that was once the H. P. Goettel Company. The H. P. Goettel Company was a farm equipment business started by Vernon and Arnold Goettel in the 1940's. Later it was made into an apartment house.

**O. Goettel Office:** (3284 Fulton Ave) The small house now used for the Goettel Office was once a temporary post office. It was located on Mallory St. and used for about two years while the Goettel Block was being built in 1927. Later it was moved to its present site and was occupied by Ada and Dave Damon for over thirty years.

**P. Coville-Goettel Home:** (3270 Fulton Ave) Down the street is a house with a cupola that was built by George Elliott for George Coville. After the death of the Covilles, the house was purchased by Abraham Goettel and occupied by his family for many years.

**Q. Simpson-Feikert Home (I believe):** About three houses east of the Coville-Goettel home, newly sided tan home with burgundy shutters. In the late 1890's this was the "Simpson House". In about 1900 Abraham and Mary (Sorg) Goettel moved into this home for a few years. At one time it had a cupola on top. Charles Feikert lived in the home as early as 1916. He was a blacksmith and had his shop in the rear. In addition to that he made baseball bats. Later owners of this home include; Harold and Gail Bradshaw and Arthur Theisier.

**R. Dr. Frios:** (3248 Fulton Ave) This building I do not have any real history on however would like to point out the chimney. The brick work has an evergreen tree built in it.

**S. Central Square Fire Company Property:** On the current property where the Fire Company stands once stood the Fancher House. The Fancher House was built in 1826. Prior to the Fancher House there was a store opened in 1820 by Hastings Curtiss. This store also had the post office where Hastings was the first postmaster. It is believed that Georeg Campbell enlarged the store into what would become known as the Fancher House. Behind the Fancher House, pretty much where todays Fire Company sits was a livery stable. Later the Fancher House changed hands a few times and was sold to H. P. Goettel who remodeled it into eight apartments. It was locally called the Beehive. Finally the Beehive was traded and eventually in 1925 sold to the Standard Oil Company who tore it down to build a gas station. The gas station section still can be seen on the south end of the building.

**T. World War I & II Monument (Loomis Park):** During World War I—when boys were being called away to war—a wooden frame was placed in Central Park and as each one entered the service his name was painted on a piece of wood by Paul Fuller and helpers, then inserted in a slot on the frame. After the war was over a bronze plaque was purchased, through popular subscription by children of the Central Square High School and people of the surrounding country. This plaque was set up in Central Park in a framework built by Mr. Herman Goettel.

For many years this plaque stood proudly in its place as a memorial to brave men, and then suddenly in 1941, when a new road was being constructed, it disappeared and was not seen for a long time. It was finally located and brought to its present location. The base for the plaque it built of a native stone by Mr. Clarence Henderson, who donated his services. The area where the monument now stands was rededicated as Loomis Park 1890-1990.

**End of Fulton Avenue Tour.** If you would like to continue from this point please view Walking Tour 2-Main Street North.