

## WALKING TOUR AROUND THE SQUARE

### Tour 2-Main Street North

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 North Street)

Starting point is the corner where the Fire Company is located.

**A. 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.

**B. 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. 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 (later Mobil) still can be seen on the south end of the building.

**C. Central Square Fire Company Building:** (687 Main Street North) Behind the Fancher House, pretty much where today's Fire Company sits was a livery stable (barn). In 1921, the barn was bought by Codner and Reymore and became an automobile sales and service. They also sold Excelsior Gasoline. Through the years the building was improved and modernized. In 1966 the new Chevrolet Garage was constructed on Route 11. The old building was sold to the fire company. Dr. Eddie Hall's office building was later torn down to make the fire company building larger. A dedication was held September 9, 1967.

**D. Baptist Parsonage:** (697 Main Street North) The parsonage was completed and dedicated October 6, 1907. Land for it was donated by George P. Elliott and a great deal of the actual work was performed by the pastor, Rev. J.R.G. Russel.

**E. First Baptist Church:** (701 Main Street North) The church was organized in 1826. Peter Woodin, from Fulton, recognized the need for a church and the house of worship was built in 1846. Elder Woodin, being a carpenter, with the help of members of the church, completed the structure with little cash expense. He remained a beloved pastor of the Central Square Baptist Church until April 1, 1872 when he resigned because of age and infirmity.

**F. The Phillips' House:** (705 Main Street North) Just north of the Baptist Church is the home known as the Phillips' home. It was probably built by Rev. Peter Woodin in the 1840's (between 1847-1850). It has many of the same architectural features as the church. In the back yard is a small building made of native stone used as a "smoke house", a cross bar inside used to hold many hams and slabs of bacon. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Phillips moved into the house in 1929. Prior to Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, Amelia Wheadon Johnson (Aunt of Mr. Phillips) lived here. Before 1908, George and Julia Damuth lived in this home. Henry Phillips died in 1974 and his wife went to live with their daughter. The home was then purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Vollmer and made into a multiple dwelling.

**G. Dewey Home:** (715 Main Street North) This home is known as the Mary and Walter Dewey Home. Walter was part of a Tank Division and fought in France, including at the Battle of the Bulge. In about 1982 he started a saw sharpening company called the Central Saw Company out of the garage in the back of the property. Walter was a joker. He loved to tease. When his children were growing up he liked to dress up on Halloween and hide in the woods behind his home. There he would wait for his children to come back from trick or treating and then he would jump out and try to scare them.

**H. Hillside Memorial Cemetery:** Land donated by James Roosevelt, the first burial was in April 1822 of Anna Goodspeed. When James wife died, it was reported that he had her buried over the fence on the south side as he intended to have her moved to Skaneateles Cemetery. Some say she was never moved.

**I. Goettel Community Park:** The village park below the cemetery was donated by Abraham Goettel in 1925 for use of residents and school children of the village. It has been improved and sponsored in recent years by the Lion's Club. At one time it was just referred to as Community Park. Today (2009) it is named Goettel Community Park.

At this point cross Route 11 and begin heading south towards the center of the village.

**J. Reymore Chevrolet-** (746 Main Street North) across from the Park. William Reymore started the business in 1921 where the Central Square Fire Company now stands. Eddie and Barbara House and Sons now conduct the business. Reymore's suffered a devastating fire in February 2007. However they were hardly closed and, as you can see, they rebuilt are continuing to serve our community.

**K. McMahan's Dairy:** (734 Main Street North) I have been told this was the site McMahons and later Byrne-McMahons Dairy in about the 1950's and 60's.

**L. Dumigan's Garage:** (728 Main Street North) Next is an empty lot where Richard Dumigan had an Auto Garage.

The next three properties were located in the area of today's (2009) Traub Funeral home parking lot.

**M. Veeder Home:** The Veeder home had beautiful gingerbread trim along the roof. In April 1861 Barney Veeder enlisted in the 24<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers to help fight the Civil War. He was wounded in the Second Battle of Bull Run in August 1862. He lay on the field for two days without food or help. He was in a hospital in Washington for 8 months and returned home in May 1863. His son, Melzar B. Veeder, was a doctor in Central Square. Later Mr. and Mrs. Omar Matthys lived in this home. It was torn down in about 1992 (according to family member, however another source states as early as 1968) by Traubs to expand their parking area and building.

**N. Matthy's Garage:** Omar Matthys ran a garage for Dodge cars. He was a Supervisor for the Town of Hastings in the 1940's. It was torn down in about 1992 (according to family member, however another source states as early as 1968) by Traubs to expand their parking area and building.

**O. Grange Hall:** Once there stood a two-story building on this lot also, the Central Square Grange #583. The original was built by the Odd Fellows. It probably burned. The lot was sold to the Grange by Henry Coville for \$108.09. Members voted to buy the Gilbert Mills Church. The church was dismantled, moved by horse and wagons, and used to construct the "new" Grange Hall. The structure was rebuilt for \$267 and was dedicated February 12, 1904. The Grange relocated to Route 49 and the Traubs bought the property. The building was torn down to expand their parking lot.

**P. Goslings Café** (684 Main Street North) Traubs Funeral Home The Traub Funeral home was built by Oscar Lewis in the late 1800's. Previously a four story building

occupied this site. It was built by Gaston Curtiss. It apparently burned. The present, two story building known as Traub Funeral Home was at an earlier period used as living quarters with a meat market located in the front of the building. George Gosling was proprietor of a saloon there. George Traub Jr. conducted a Funeral Parlor here and as of 1985 has been carried on by 5 generations of the Traub family.

**Q. 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.

**End of Main Street North Tour.** If you would like to continue from this point please view Walking Tour 3- East Avenue.