

**WALKING TOUR AROUND THE SQUARE**  
**Tour 5- Caughdenoy Road & Pleasant Avenue**



Created by Heather Stevens 2009 Village Historian  
(I would love to expand this one!!)

(At one time this, Pleasant Avenue was called Factory Street)  
Pleasant Avenue originally Factory Street because of the cheese factory there in early days.

Caughdenoy Road is actually called County Route 12 (2009)

Starting point is Corner of Main Street and Caughdenoy Road on the South side.

**A. Penoyer Home:** (Corner of South Main Street & Caughdenoy Road) The Penoyer Home once stood here, built in 1879 for George Woodin. It was one of the show places of the village. The builder was Thomas Smith who constructed many building in the village at that time. It was bought by Earl Penoyer and family who lived there for nearly 30 years. The barn was as beautifully constructed as the house. It was moved to the corner of Pleasant Avenue and Caughdenoy Street and built into a home for Timothy and Cora Conterman. The Penoyer home was torn down to make room for a new post office.

Head down Caughdenoy (West) and turn left onto Pleasant Avenue.

I believe the home on the corner of Pleasant and Caughdenoy (east side of Pleasant) may be in part the building that E. T. Conterman moved there and remodeled into an attractive home where he and his wife Cora lived. Later the Robarge family lived there.

The next few spots are on the across Pleasant Avenue on the West side of Pleasant.

**B. Cronk Home:** (100 Pleasant) Was built by John Besanson and believe it was sold to Solmon Graves (father of Beulah Penoyer). Later owned by Jack Cronk.

**C. Loomis Tavern:** (116 Pleasant) The four apartment house was originally a

blacksmith shop (William Gillens Blacksmith Shop) —the original building being partly from the early tavern on the Sam Sweet property (2009 where Mobil Convenience Express is located). He moved it there when he built the big home. John McKinley purchased this home in about 1908 and sold I. H. C. Farm Machinery here until 1911. John Carver bought this property and turned it into a four family apartment house.

**D. Cheese Factory:** (118 Pleasant Avenue) Pleasant Avenue originally Factory Street because of the cheese factory there in early days. This later was the home of Tom Fox. In May 1888 the paper reported that Mr. Boigel and Mutter's cheese factory was manufacturing from 11 to 12 cheese per day. Floyd Stone of Central square was assisting. Then in March 1890 the papers reported that Mutter & Boigel were making preparations to build an extensive cheese factory upon the site where the one burned last fall. It will be 50x120 feet. (Same place??) Charles Beeby bought the Boigel cheese-factory and made it into a lovely, spacious home.

From here head back to Caughdenoy Road and remain on the south side of the road.

**D. Devitt Home:** (West Corner of Pleasant-South side of Caughdenoy) I believe this is the home of George Devitt, Central Square businessman. Abram Conterman (uncle of Dr. William Conterman) lived here before Mr. Devitt. Abram sold to Alphonso Claxton, who sold to Mr. Devitt. George Devitt came to Central Square in 1903. He married Florence Coville in 1908. Their daughter, Faith Devitt Crawford, was born in his home in 1915.

Continue up Caughdenoy to the top of the hill where the basketball court is. On Caughdenoy Street, early maps show a mill just beyond the intersection of Pleasant Avenue below the hill.

**E. William Menikiem Farm:** Here stood the William Menikiem Farm. William operated a blacksmith shop for many years and then sold to Mr. and Mrs. Louis LaTourneau. Mr. LaTourneau worked in the bead factory across the road (2099 Caughdenoy Road). Today this property is part of the Paul V. Moore High School campus.

Carefully cross the street here.

**F. Potter Bead Factory:** (2099 Caughdenoy Road) in early 1900's was a business called the Potter Bead Factory and also found as the Niagara Falls Novelty Company. They made spar jewelry for vacation areas like Sylvan Beach. The owner was Geogre Potter. He was born in Derby, England and came to America in 1883 with parents and located at Niagara Falls. His father started the manufacturing of spar beads there and he learned trade. He moved here from Niagara Falls and continued to make beads and other novelties under the firm name of Niagara Falls Novelty Company which he was owner. Prior to George and his wife, Lyman and Florence (Burdick) Potter owned this home (no relation). After George Potter, Grant Murphy owned this home.

**G. Livingston Home:** ( just before #2159) Home of Mr. and Mrs. Goerge Livingston. They sold to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Woodcock who raised flowers and had a florist shop here for some time. Later is was the home of Chiropractor John H. Fuller and family. For many years this was the last home from the village to Potter Hill (house #2099)

**H. Osroff Home:** (2159 Caughdenoy Road) In about 1907 Mr. Frank Loran began building this home. He fell from the second floor and landed on the basement floor. He passed away a few days later. Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Low purchased the property and finished the house. They lived here for many years. Later Dr. Osroff bought the home and lived here with his family. He Sold to Mr. Keene of Constantia.

**I. Traub block:** (Today corner of Caughdenoy and Main Street South about 671 South Main Street) The Traub block became one of the oldest buildings in the village until it burned in the fire of 1921. It was erected by Gehiel Noble in 1836. In stage coach days, Jacob Farrington used the building for a hotel and sold it to William Slocum who conducted business for some time. The first drug store in the village, owned by Mr. Drake, was in this old building. Mr. Slocum sold to Gabriel Traub and purchased the large brick hotel next door. Mr. Traub converted it into a residence where he lived until his death. His son, Louis Traub opened a furniture store and undertaking business there in the 1800's. It was destroyed by fire in 1921. The Traubs built a new building, just to the west on Caughdenoy Street. The furniture store was downstairs and the family lived upstairs.

**End of Caughdenoy Road & Pleasant Avenue Tour.**