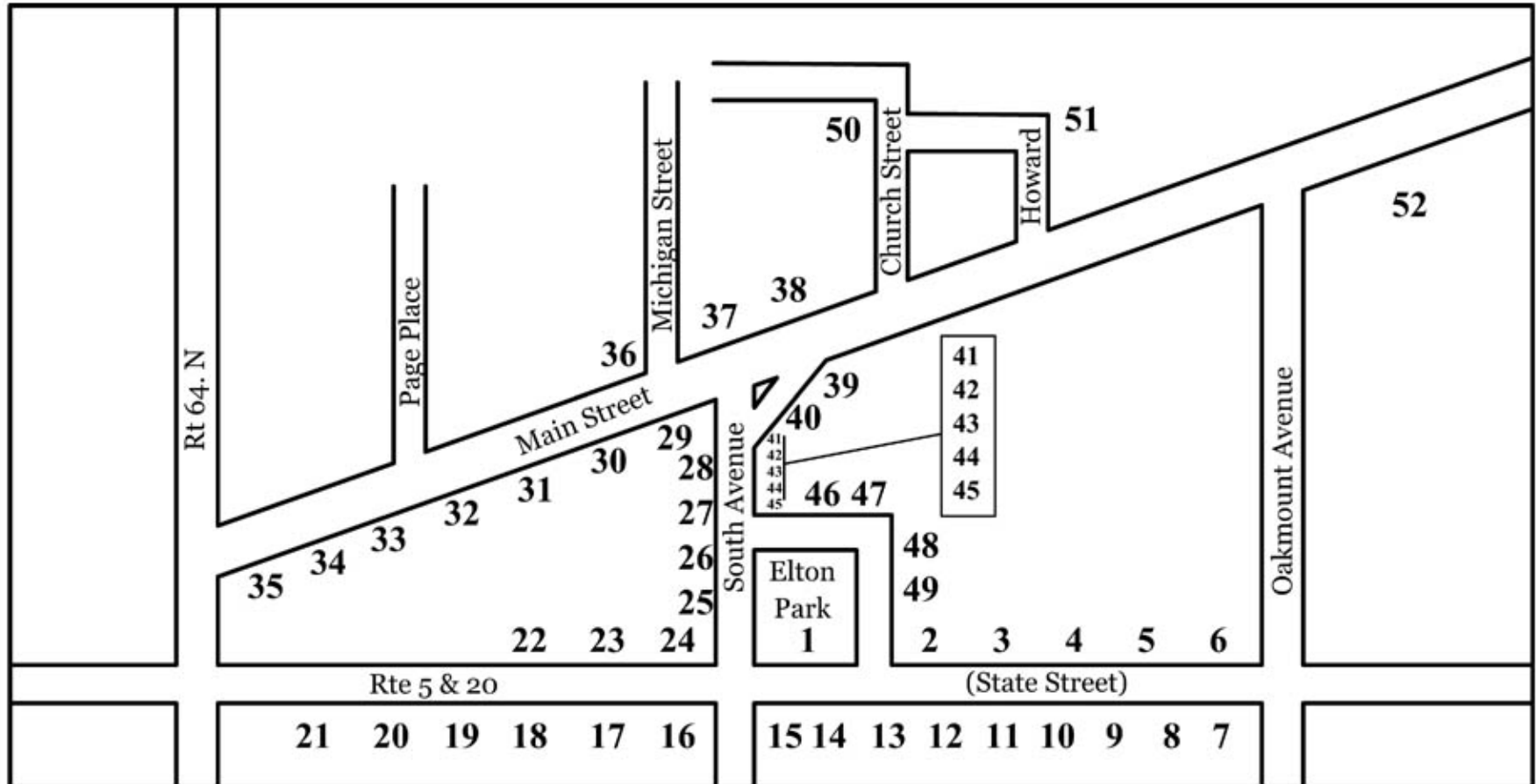


Walking Tour

Historic District - Village of Bloomfield



The historic homes are not open to the public. The academy museum and churches are open during their business hours.

Our walking tour starts in historic Elton Park (#1 on the map) and proceeds around the village along the route of our Historic District.

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Bloomfield, originally part of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase, was formed in 1789 and included Mendon, Victor, and East and West Bloomfield. The township of East Bloomfield was defined in 1833.

Benjamin Keyes purchased most of the land that constitutes the present-day village from Oliver Phelps in 1794 and that year his large family started settling the village. Our pioneer settlers from New England arrived here in 1789 and proceeded to develop agriculture as the primary industry. The village became a bustling community in the first half of the nineteenth century, offering many agriculture-related businesses to the vicinity. The residents prospered and built many lovely houses that fortunately have survived to the present day.

Our walking tour starts in historic Elton Park and proceeds around the village along the route of our Historic District. We hope you enjoy your stroll through our historic village. Relax and absorb the atmosphere of the past that freely abounds in the village.

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The information here is based on the most reliable records available at this time, but there still may be errors.

1. Elton Park – originally called the Public Square, Elton Park was part of the purchase of the Congregational Church from Benjamin Keys in 1798. The square was cleared, fenced and landscaped in 1847. In 1865 the fence was removed and J.G. Batterson of Hartford, Connecticut constructed the Column of Freedom to honor 39 Civil War dead. On January 3, 1901, the square was named Elton Park in memory of Charlotte Steele Elton. In 1934 her husband, James, donated the memorial arch. A cairn, in memory of the Seneca Indians and Father Fremin, a visiting Jesuit, was erected on the south side of the park in 1937. The historic park is the center for many community activities.

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2. United Methodist Church – The clapboard church was built by the Universalists about 1832 and was purchased by the Episcopalians in 1842. The church was sold to the Methodist Society in 1859 for \$2,000. In 1867, the building was repaired and a second story was added for the sanctuary. A modern addition, dedicated in 1975 replaced a Greek Revival rectory built in 1845.
3. Parmele home – The original Parmele dwelling, built in 1843, burned. The present house, built around 1872 by Ward Davis, a carpenter and Parmele relative, remained in the Parmele family until the Methodist society purchased it for a parsonage in 1964.
4. Henry Hamlin (First known owner). The date on this Cape Cod style, Greek revival trimmed home is unknown. Henry Hamlin, the owner in 1844, was a prosperous businessman and banker. The home is built on a wonderful cobblestone foundation.
5. Thayer Gauss – the son of pioneer settler, Benjamin Gauss, erected this Greek Revival home in 1853. He was a trustee of both the Congregational Church and the East Bloomfield Academy. Rev. Henry Kendall, pastor of the Congregational Church from 1849 to 1858, purchased the home in 1870 and lived there until his death in 1892.
6. Ward Davis – a local carpenter, built this Greek Revival farmhouse in 1854. The second owner, William Taft, was a partner in the firm of Taft and Perkins, a local farm implement business.
7. Henry W. Hamlin. Mr. Hamlin built this Greek Revival residence in 1841. He was the son of pioneer settler, Elijah Hamlin. Henry W. Hamlin became a very prominent businessman as well as establishing a banking business in the area. Since its construction, the house has remained in the family.

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8. George Hamlin Home. The 1880 house is a fine example of Stick-style architecture. The house was built on property given to George by his father, Henry Hamlin. The lovely Stick-style carriage house was renovated in the 1980's.
9. John Keyes home – This is the oldest house in the village and was built in 1794. John Keyes, believed to be the builder of the house, erected the home on land his father, Benjamin, purchased from Oliver Phelps in 1794. The house was enlarged and embellished in the Greek Revival era.
10. Luther and Elizabeth Shepard – the Shepards had their gracious, Italianate residence built in 1855. The Shepards were the proprietors of some of Bloomfield's early flourmills. The barn on the driveway has been converted to resemble a covered bridge.
11. Abram Pierce Home – The classic Greek- Revival home was built about 1848 in the style of the famous architect, Minard LeFever. The back section of the house appears to be of earlier construction and is believed to have been a small house to which the main section was added. The house rests on an impressive cobblestone foundation.
12. Daniel Martz – Mr. Martz, an East Bloomfield tailor, had his Greek Revival built about 1848. The roof was raised over the east wing around the turn of the century.
13. Dr. William Hall House – The Hall house, constructed in three sections, was probably built in the early 1830's. Dr. Hall, an early village physician, trained some of the town's other physicians.
14. Michael Monahan Home – The clapboard house, decorated with latticework, was built for Mr. Monahan about 1892. It is believed that it was constructed as a two-family dwelling.
15. The Mumford Hayes House – The Hayes home, built in 1839, is a transitional Federal-Greek Revival style with a side wing. Mr. Hayes had his carriage manufactory on the property and for over thirty-seven years sold his splendid carriages all over the East.

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16. Holloway's Tavern – The stately, Federal Holloway House was built by blacksmith, Peter Holloway in 1808. It was an early stop on the stagecoach line and also served as a local meeting place. It was purchased by Harlow Munson in 1833 for his private residence and remained a home until Frank Munson returned it to its destiny of serving the public in 1910. The Holloway House is now owned by the Wayne family and is featured in the book Back Roads And Country Inns by Norman T. Simpson.
17. Walter Bridgland – The attractive, Walter Bridgland home was built in 1892 and is somewhat Queen Anne in its style. Mr. Bridgland was a local salesman.
18. Asher Norton – The Norton family was among Bloomfield's pioneer settlers. Asher built the bracketed Italianate home in 1874. The Genesee Country Museum was very impressed with the decorative detailing on the porch and received permission to use the porch design on the octagon house at the museum in Mumford, NY.
19. Munson Property – This small house nestled on a knoll on State St. was built near the turn of the twentieth century. According to a Bloomfield map, a Mrs. Munson occupied the home in 1900. In 1938 Mrs. Isadore Munson sold the Holloway House and moved to this house where she lived until her death in 1940.
20. Edward Duffy erected his home on State St. in 1875. It was built in the Italianate era as is noted by the chamfered porch supports that can be seen on the glass- enclosed porch. Theodore Silvernail purchased the home in 1919 and the home remained in his family until 1980.
21. Congregational Church Parsonage was built in 1874 on the grounds on which the first parsonage stood. The two-story clapboard house has some lovely Italianate detailing and beautiful paired entry doors. The bottom panels of the doors feature a unique, carved tulip design that is topped by arched windows. The house became a private residence in 1968.

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22. Henry Parsons Home – Mr. Parsons' home was built at the turn of the century on land that was part of his father's home lot. The use of different styles of shingles adds a decorative touch to the house.
23. Philo Hamlin- Philo, the brother of pioneer settler, Elijah Hamlin, built this front gabled building in 1796 for use as a store. It is believed to have been the first grain store in the village.
24. The Congregational Church – This church was the first organized church of the pioneer era. The property was purchased from Benjamin Keys in 1798 and included land for the church, the Academy, the old burying ground and the park. The first Meeting House was erected in 1801 and finished in 1808. It was the first Meeting House erected west of Clinton, New York. Andrew Colton was the architect and Robert Powers was the builder. The present imposing Greek- Revival church was built in 1837 and rests on an remarkable cobblestone foundation. Fellowship Hall, built in 1862 was connected to the church in 1957. The unique four-faced clock was installed on the steeple in 1854 and Gabriel, who flies atop the dome, adorned the original Meeting House.
25. The East Bloomfield Academy – Erected in 1838 with timbers from the old Meeting House, the stately, three-story, brick Academy opened in 1839 as a private boarding school although records indicate that most of the students were local. In 1876, it became a Union Free School. When the Academy closed in 1909, ownership reverted to the Congregational Church. The Grange purchased the building in 1919. It was then sold in 1970 to the Historical Society of the Town of East Bloomfield. The building now houses the Academy Museum and the AWA Museum. Graffiti from academy students can still be seen on the front wall of the building.
26. Stephen Clark – The Gothic-style home of Mr. Clark, principal of the Academy from 1840-1851, was built in 1851. It is thought that he may have built it as a retirement home but in 1852, he sold the home and left East Bloomfield.

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27. Spencer Coleman – built between 1810 and 1820 to house the law office of Mr. Coleman, the building was used as the Post Office in the 1870's. It was converted into a private residence in 1890.
28. Dr. Ralph Wilcox – one of the pioneer settlers and a physician, Dr. Wilcox had his grand Federal style home erected between 1805 and 1810. It was known as the George Wright Estate from 1846 until the late 1870's. Dr. Stoughton Wheeler purchased the estate in 1898 for his residence and office. His son, Will later ran it as a funeral home and it has been utilized as a residence and funeral home since that time.
29. Norton and Beach Storehouse – Built between 1806 and 1812, this building was erected as a storehouse and was part of the store block of Norton and Beach on Main Street. It was moved to its present location in the mid-1860's and in 1890 it was converted into a private residence.
30. Bani Bradley – a prominent farmer and businessman, Mr. Bradley had this charming Greek Revival built in 1849. Many years later, Lena Saxby Steele willed the home to the Bloomfield Public Library. It was sold and the proceeds used to build a new library.
31. Laura Adams House – Built circa 1848, this building had extensive renovations in the late 1890's, including the raising of the roof. Laura was the granddaughter of Deacon John Adams, the proprietor of the first Bloomfield settlement in 1789 that was located along the banks of Mud Creek.
32. John McClean House – Mr. McClean built his Greek Revival home in 1848 on land that was part of the Eggleston lot. Mr. McClean was a local blacksmith.
33. Scribner-Seymour House – This Greek Revival style home was built circa 1835 and purchased in 1846 by Pierpont Seymour, a local merchant. The Seymour family owned the house until the turn of the century.

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34. Millard Parmele – Mr. Parmele had this home built in 1874. The Parmeles were early settlers in Bloomfield and descendants of the family still reside in the area.
35. Charles Page – This beautiful Italianate residence and Gothic style barn were erected in 1870. Mr. Page was a prosperous hop farmer and the other two barns on the property were his hop barns. The Page family owned the estate until 1966.
36. Josiah Porter – Mr. Porter built his elegant Federal home, on its impressive cobblestone foundation about 1825. The home and outbuildings have retained much of their original integrity and remain remarkably intact. Mr. Porter was a local merchant, a justice of the peace for many years and Supervisor of East Bloomfield in 1847.
37. Norton and Beach Store – Built between 1806 and 1812, this building is one of the original buildings of the store block of Nathaniel Norton and Elisha Beach. The store block could be defined as Bloomfield's first shopping plaza as the stores offered many services to the early community. The Italianate building that sat east of this building housed the first bank in town and burned in 1985.
38. The East Bloomfield Tavern Stand – The brick Federal-style building was originally called by the above name when erected in 1812 by Jared Boughton, Bloomfield's first Town Clerk. It was an early stop on the stagecoach line and hosted many early auctions and political meetings.
39. Nathaniel Tupper Home – Built for Mr. Tupper in 1813, this is the only saltbox house in the village. In the early 1900's a meat market was operated from its basement.

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40. The Farmer's Store – Known today as the Trading Post, this Federal brick building was erected between 1808 and 1812 as a Co-op store by a group of farmers from Bloomfield and Richmond townships. The venture did not prove successful and the store was sold. For many years it was operated as Munson's store. William Adams, a descendent of our pioneer Adams family, purchased the store in 1926 and renamed it the Trading Post. It is still known as the Trading Post today.
41. Child-Gardner Store – Jonathan Child, who was Rochester, New York's first mayor, and Benjamin Gardner built this Federal store in 1813. The west wing housed the former East Bloomfield Post office until the new post office recently opened in the downtown business district.
42. Amos Bronson – Mr. Bronson had his Greek Revival home built about 1840. Mr. Bronson was a deacon of the Congregational church, active in town government and a local merchant. The building is now being used as an apartment house.
43. Harvey Hobart – Mr. Hobart operated a tin business on this block and this home is believed to have been part of the business. Built in approximately 1853, a later owner operated a hat shop in the home.
44. Barnabas Sprague – This house, that at one time was part of Hobart's tin operation, was built circa 1830. It was converted into a private residence in the mid-1870's.
45. Ashley and Hatch – Present records indicate that this building was part of Alfred Stannard's shops in 1838. During the Civil War, the building housed a recruiting office. In 1839, Mr. Ashley, a tinsmith and Mr. Hatch, a shoemaker, began business in the building. The business eventually became a hardware store and the area became known as the Ashley Block.

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46. Alfred Stannard – At or about 1838, Mr. Stannard built this home next to his shops. In 1886, Dr. Partridge purchased the house and used it as his residence and office. He often used it as a hospital, keeping extremely ill patients there until they recovered.
47. The Old Town Hall – was built about 1842 on the site previously occupied by the brick schoolhouse of District #8. The Old Town House, as it is now called, discontinued use as a public building circa 1940. It is now the property of the East Bloomfield Cemetery Association.
48. The East Bloomfield Cemetery – The cemetery was originally the property of the Congregational Church and was established in this location when the Academy was erected on the site of the first burying ground. In 1894, the Congregational Church donated the monument just inside the gates. This monument is inscribed with the names of the internees of the old burying ground who were not moved to this site. Since 1897, the cemetery has been the responsibility of the East Bloomfield Cemetery Association.
49. Parmenio Peck Home – Parmenio Peck’s Greek Revival farmhouse was built in 1860 with lumber purchased from the dismantled Methodist Church that was once located on Mud Creek. The charming home has a lovely veranda that encircles its front and south side.
50. St. Bridget’s/St. Joseph’s Complex – The church, the rectory and the cemetery were placed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 17, 1992. The stately brick, Romanesque style church was built in 1874-1875. It has a stunning Vermont slate roof. The cemetery was established in 1866. The church rectory was constructed in 1894 by local builders.

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51. Abner Adams House– Abner Adams was the son of Deacon John Adams, leader of the Bloomfield settlement on Mud Creek in 1789. Abner built the elegant Federal brick house circa 1812. The Adams family was active in the political, social and religious life of East Bloomfield. Sophia Adams, Abner’s, daughter, kept a select school for girls in the home during the 1820’s. Abner established Adams Basin, a considerable port on the Erie Canal. Myron, Abner’s son, was immortalized by the “Grandfather Stories” written by his grandson, Samuel Hopkins Adams, a prominent author. Today the Adams family is considered Bloomfield’s first family.
52. St. Peter’s Episcopal Church – is a very fine example of Gothic Revival architecture. The small church, built in 1871, features stained glass, lancet windows and a unique diamond pattern slate roof. The slender steeple is proudly adorned by St. Peter’s Crossed Keys weathervane.

Presented by

East Bloomfield Historical Society

And

