

A Walking Tour of the Walworth, New York Hamlet

This walking tour of Walworth is sponsored by the Walworth Historical Society.



Above photo taken circa 1980

Note: The information provided on this project is a work-in-progress. As we learn more about the history of the buildings and businesses along this route, the information will be incorporated into this tour. We welcome your input and support for this project. If you have questions or need more information, please contact WHS President Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205, WHS Vice-President Robert Mogray at 585-576-4156 or Walworth Town Historian Gene Bavis at 315-573-2768.

Route: The path to see some of the historic sites of Walworth is as follows:

Start: The walking tour will start at the Walworth Historical Society Museum at 2257 Academy Street. As you walk out of the WHS Museum, turn right (west) onto Academy Street and go to the end of the street.

Turn right onto Main Street (north) for just a short distance.

Turn left (west) onto Church Street. Follow Church Street around the bend and all the way to the end.

Turn right (east) onto Walworth-Penfield Road and walk through the Main Street intersection to the Walworth Mini-Mall. Turn around and exit the Walworth Mini-Mall.

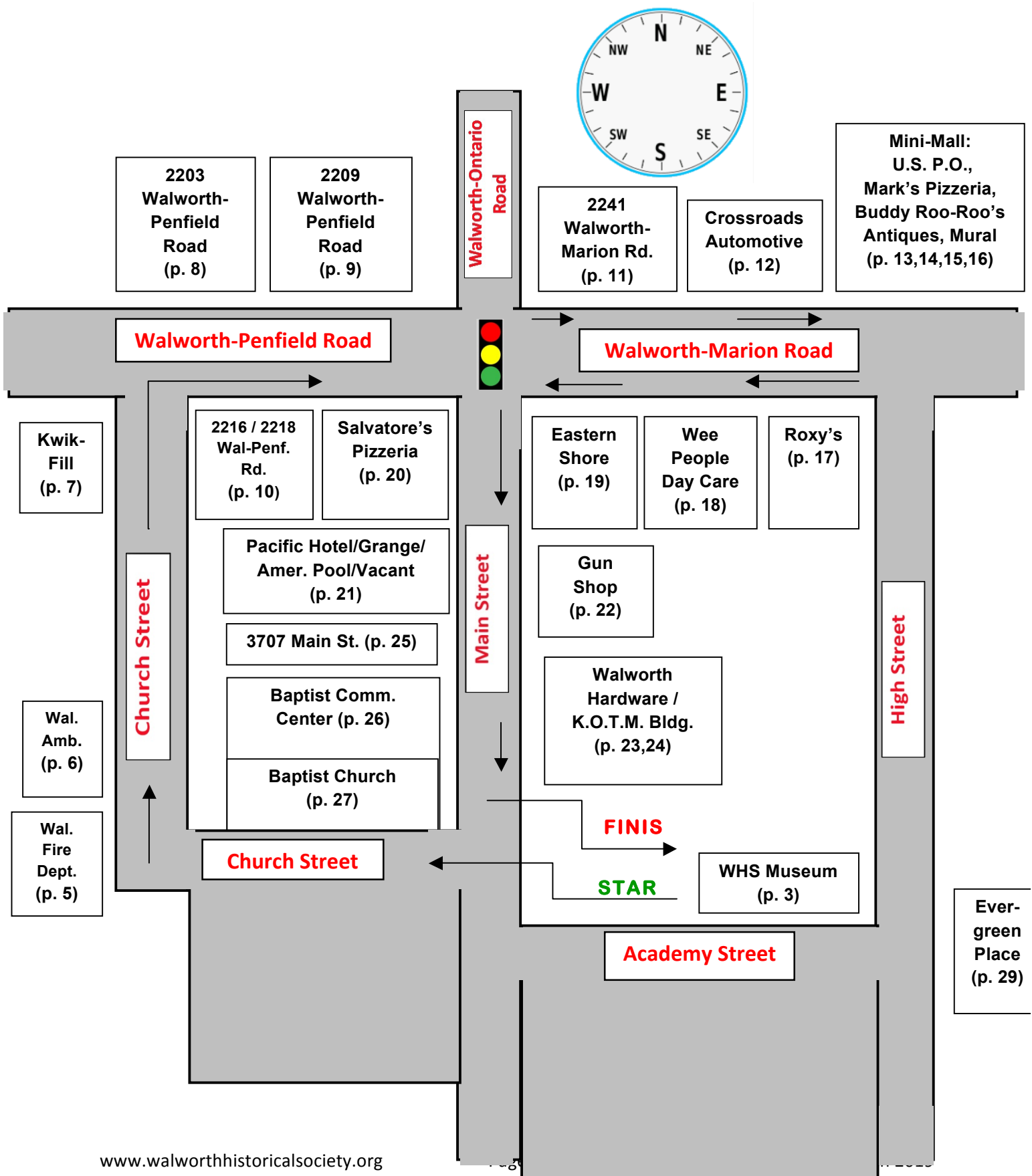
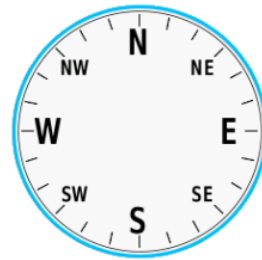
Turn right (west) as you walk out of the Walworth Mini-Mall onto Walworth-Marion Road and go to the Main Street intersection.

Turn left (south) onto Main Street and proceed to Academy Street.

Turn left (east) onto Academy Street and walk back to the Walworth Historical Society Museum.

End: This is the end of the walking tour of Walworth. We hope you have enjoyed it.

Walworth Historical Society's Walking Tour of the Walworth Hamlet



WHS Museum: Start of the walking tour



2257 Academy Street



The WHS got started with meetings in the homes of those interested in preserving the local past. Some meetings were held at the Walworth Elementary School to discuss the possibility of creating a historical society. Several meetings were also held at the Freewill Elementary School.

Some of the people who were instrumental in organizing the Walworth Historical Society were: Ethel Henning, Dorothy Petty, Chuck Bills, Hazel Bassage, Howard and Pearl Billings, Cliff and Bernice Nortier, Cliff and Emily Huntley, Gene Bavis, Joe Finley, Dorothy Hack and John Traas. A permanent charter was received in 1996.

In 1987 Clifford and Emily Huntley donated a parcel of land on Academy Street for a museum. When the Walworth Grange sold its building on Main Street, Hazel Bassage and Emily Huntley persuaded them to give a substantial amount of money to the Walworth Historical Society for a new museum. The Hoffman Foundation also provided funds. Other fund raisers were conducted toward building a museum.

On July 10, 1988, a ground-breaking ceremony was held at the site for the new museum (shown above). The cost of the building was about \$45,000. The contractors for the project were Don and Cheryl Eaton.



The old school bell (left), which is prominently displayed outside the museum, originally came from the Walworth Academy. On September 18, 1989, the Walworth Historical Society, in cooperation with the Walworth Grange, opened and dedicated the current museum at 2257 Academy Street in Walworth at its first meeting.

Because the town historian works closely with the Walworth Historical Society, the town historian's office is also located in this museum. Mildred Reynolds became the first Walworth Town Historian in 1947 and served for 30 years; Gene Bavis succeeded her in 1977. John Traas was next to hold this position taking over in 1989. In 2004 Gene Bavis once again took over as Walworth Town Historian and still holds the position.



3679 Main Street

Walworth United Methodist Church

Located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Church Street is a brick church which was opened for worship in 1872.

This is the first structure in Walworth to be on the National Register of Historic Places. This is a very big deal because the National Register of Historic Places was established in 1966. Applicants for this honor must be at least 50 years old.

Not only is this a great achievement but the church is now eligible to apply for certain grants for improvement. The current pastor is Jacque Ruth.

At a business meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Walworth on February 17, 1871, it was “resolved that we build a new Church” and at the general meeting held on March 6, 1871, Mr. O. Mason reported the actions of the Board of Trustees.

Two houses and lots were purchased, one from Mrs. Hunt for \$750 and one from George Trimbull for \$1,800 who bought the parsonage for \$1,500. The location of the

first parsonage is unknown. The house on the first lot was sold and removed. The other house was moved onto its walls and fitted up, serving as the parsonage until 1884, when it was replaced with a new two-story parsonage at 3671 Main Street.

In 1888 a new bell was installed. Jake Pembroke, Vaughn’s grandfather, often shared a story how it took three teams of horses to pull the bell up to the steeple. It is 131 feet up to the tip of the cross on the steeple.

In 1889 the kerosene lights in the Sanctuary were replaced by acetylene gas lights. This was possible using a carbide generator built and installed by J. C. Seely and maintained by Shep Hurley, the church’s custodian for many years. In 1924, a year after the Walworth Light and Power Company brought electricity to Walworth, electric lights were installed and a pipe organ was purchased.

Sometime prior to 1906 a red brick annex was added to the west wall, providing a large meeting room with a kitchen on the south end.

In 1969 the congregation became a two-point charge with the Zion United Methodist Church of West Walworth, formerly the Evangelical United Brethren. This is when Methodist Churches added United to their name.



2178 Church Street

The Walworth Fire Department

Since its origin in 1929, the Walworth Fire Department has been staffed entirely by volunteers. Over 50 dedicated members provide the manpower and leadership necessary to protect life and property for the residents of our community.

The Walworth Fire Department is run by the Walworth Fire District, which owns and maintains the fire house, apparatus, and equipment. The Walworth Fire Department provides the manpower for the Walworth Fire District. Together, the Department and District work to provide fire and rescue protection for the residents of Walworth.

THE WFD protects approximately 12 square miles within the Fire District and assists neighboring communities when needed.

The WFD volunteers respond to a wide variety of emergencies every year, including:

- house fires***
- chimney fires***
- car fires***
- brush fires***
- natural gas & propane leaks***
- carbon monoxide detector activation***
- chemical spills***
- motor vehicle accidents***
- water rescues***
- storm emergencies***

electrical wires down



2178 Church Street

The Walworth Ambulance, Inc.

This is the Walworth Ambulance base station. Although the ambulances are still housed at the Walworth Fire Department building, this base serves as a communication and meeting center.

For many years the Walworth Ambulance was part of the Walworth Fire Department. In June of 2008 they became a separate organization but still work closely with the Walworth Fire Department.



Inside of this base are living quarters, a kitchen, meeting rooms, computers and records. It is a great place for the Walworth Ambulance members to plan schedules, hold monthly meetings and update files.

The building is dedicated to the late John Baxter (left) who originally proposed its construction.



2166 Walworth-Penfield Road

Kwik Fill / Red Apple Gas Station and Convenience Store

For many years it was a vacant lot as well as a cherry orchard at the corner of Walworth-Penfield Road and Church Street.

On May 14, 1969 Harold and Richard Schultz sold the property to Seaway Stations to be used for a gas station.

Seaway later merged with United Refining of Warren, PA. It is now operated as a Kwik Fill / Red Apple gas station/convenience store.

For several decades now it has served the Walworth community with gasoline and grocery sales.



2203 Walworth-Penfield Road

From 1955 until 2005 Jay and Arline Taber and family lived there. Note the cobblestone style construction on the bottom floor.

This is the home that Jay and Arline lived in for many years with their daughters, Mary Ellen and Joan. The house was built in the 1840's and has had a succession of owners, including Henry and Libby Bean in the early 1920's. His sister, Carrie Carter, inherited it upon their deaths.

Carrie and her husband in turn left it to their two daughters and son - Mrs. Fred Peacock, Ray (Grace) Carter, and Mrs. Peet.

The Carter children sold it to the Bennetts, whose son Vern and his wife Helen lived there for about five years with their children. They sold it to the Tabers in 1955.

The second floor space had been increased to add an apartment, which was rented at various times. Newlyweds Leighton and Nancy Bel also lived here from 1956 – 1960, and in 1962 Arline Taber's mother moved into the apartment. Bill, Hennie, and Bunny Underhill at one time lived there too.

In 2005 Jay and Arline Taber sold the home to Jim and Linda Harden who now live there with their children.



2209 Walworth-Penfield Road

It is the former home of Charlie and Bertha Pembroke and family. Note the cobblestone style of construction on the first floor. Charlie was the Walworth town electrician, plumber, and all-around handyman for many years. He also was a volunteer fireman, amateur photographer, and musician.

At one time Henry Bean operated a harness shop, hardware store and gasoline station at that location.

Later, George Fehr operated a woodworking and upholstery shop in the front part of the building; he had an English bulldog. The desk recently donated to the Walworth Historical Society was made there.

When Charlie and Bertha Pembroke purchased the property in the 1940's for \$900.00 they remodeled it into a home for themselves and their sons, Burton and Vaughn. Charlie and Bertha lived there until their retirement move to Florida in 1997. Charlie was probably better known than anyone in town since he was a heating, plumbing, and electrical man.

There was a constant stream of people stopping in to Charlie's to ask him to come fix something or other. Or they stopped just to talk. Charlie wrote the little booklet, "Walworth, As I Remember It," in which he recalls many of the events and people of the town.



2216 Walworth-Penfield Road

The building to the left was Walworth Fire Department's first fire house and home to the chemical cart.

The property was purchased in 1929 when the department was established. It was later used as a medical loan closet for wheel chairs, beds, commodes, crutches and other related items.

The loan closet was later moved to the town hall and was then later disbanded.

David and Andrea Kords purchased the building in March 2004.



2218 Walworth-Penfield Road

The building to the left was the second fire house for the Walworth Fire Department. When another fire truck was purchased in 1950 it became apparent that a larger fire house was needed, and the fire department purchased land to the east of #2216 from the Walworth Grange.

A water cistern, storing 25,000 gallons of water for fire protection, was also constructed under the floor of the new building.

Current owner William Thompson purchased it in March 2002.



2241 Walworth-Marion Road

Wayne County Automotive originally owned the property.

Then after a decade the business closed. Crossroads Automotive purchased this property in 2018.



(Left) For many years the house stood at this corner of Walworth-Ontario Road and Walworth-Marion Road.

Pete and Gladys VanHaneghem lived there for many years.

This house was destroyed with a controlled burn in 1992 and the lot stood vacant.



At the bottom left is a photo of the house that stood at this site in 1907. Bottom right photo is Pete VanHaneghem's garage, which was located to the east of his house. Both photos are from the Walworth Historical Society's files.





2249 Walworth-Marion Road

Crossroads Automotive

This family-owned business is Crossroads Automotive and is an automobile repair shop. This was previously owned and built by Bob Casselman.

They do car repair such as brakes, tires, exhaust systems, suspension, and transmission work as well as NYS inspections. A car repair business has been at this location for over 30 years. The former Pete VanHaneghem repair shop was located on the left side of the current building. That building has since been torn down.

There have been several owners over the years.



(Left: Bob Casselman's garage)

Walworth Mini-Mall



2263 Walworth-Marion Road

(Information from Walworth Memories: April 2006 – the Englerts)

Built as Don Brockman's Red and White Store in 1963 with Norm Soucy as contractor. Operated by Don Brockman until late 1969 when it was purchased by Leighton Bel. In February 1972 it was destroyed by fire. Walworth had been a dry town. The day after the fire, the liquor license arrived.

Joe and Marcia Englert purchased it several months later in 1973, cleaned up the remains of the fire, and rebuilt it as a mini-mall.

Richard Billings was a tenant after the fire and operated a grocery store for 3 years.

Mel and Irene Draves operated it for someone from Newark who had several other grocery stores in the area.

Building was empty when Post Office moved there in February 1987.

2012: Joe Englert sold to Dan Roberts of Walworth Properties, LLC, who operates Mark's Pizzeria as a franchise.

Other businesses which were there through the years (info from Marcia Jan. 2019):

- Barb Kuelling's gift shop
- Chuck Wells Insurance Agency
- Cleary Insurance Agency
- Darlene Willard, hairdresser, was first tenant after the fire
- Day Care who catered to special needs people from Newark
- Elsie Bills had a tax preparation office
- Margaret's Donut Shop
- Quality Printers owned by Brian Mason
- Tim Brown Electric
- Restaurants operated by Jim and Amy Sauer, Margaret Reynolds (coffee and donuts), Cindy Polisse, and Laura Clark
- Walworth-Gananda Physical Therapy
- Lower level: Furniture refinisher, Joe Englert's excavating business

Current occupants: United States Post Office, Buddy Roo-Roo's Antiques, and Mark's Pizzeria



2263 Walworth-Marion Road

Walworth's First Mural (A Testament to Theron G. Yeomans' Holstein Cattle)

This first Walworth mural was inspired by Gene and Liz Bavis from the original painting by Clara Billings Yeomans, the daughter-in-law of Theron G. Yeomans. Gene and Liz were on a trip to Georgia and Alabama and saw many murals in the southern towns of these two states. They knew that Walworth did not have any murals. The rest is history. Gene and Liz did most of the planning, organizing, and fund raising for this mural.

Cazenovia College Art Professor Corky Goss and his son Graham have created a beautiful mural for the west wall of the Walworth Post Office. The mural is based on the two paintings of the first herd of Holstein cattle brought here in 1879 by Theron G. Yeomans. It is about 25 feet long.

It took more than 80 donors to make this mural possible. It cost around \$4,500 including the recognition and description plaques. Along with the permission to put the mural on the wall of the building, Mark's Pizzeria pledged the first \$500 toward the project.

On Sunday, October 6, 2013 the Walworth Historical Society conducted a mural dedication program at the Walworth Post Office. A crowd of approximately 150 people showed up and several people came long distances to attend. Alfred (Fred) Enisz, who moved away in 1975, came all the way from Denver. Gary Amsler came from South Carolina and Tim Scott from Ohio. Several others drove at least an hour to attend.

The ceremony opened with a flag raising and Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scouts from Troop 113, Walworth (Kevin Barci, Scoutmaster).



2263 Walworth-Marion Road

Mark's Pizzeria

Mark's Pizzeria is a franchise of pizza restaurants in Upstate New York. It was founded in 1982 by Mark Crane and is located in the Walworth Mini-Mall.

Mark's Pizzeria has a long record of community support throughout the region and brings something more than pizza to the communities where they have franchises. They bring an example of citizenship and a spirit of giving through an attitude of action.

Mark, who began his impressive business career in Palmyra and is a resident of Perinton, demonstrates his personal philosophy every time he contributes to local scholarship funds, cancer research drives, the installation of gymnasium floors, football field lights, donations to the Walworth Historical Society and many other substantial contributions and projects in area communities.



2263 Walworth-Marion Road

Walworth Post Office

Prior to April 1829 what is known as the township of Walworth was part of the Town of Ontario, New York. This building was first built as Don Brockman's IGA Foodliner. In 1969 it was purchased by Leighton Bel but 3 years later there was a fire in February 1972. Joe and Marcia Englert bought it and rebuilt it. Richard Billings operated a store there for three years. Mel and Irene Draves then operated a store there for a few years. Then it sat empty until the Post Office moved there in 1987.

Previous to this, Luther Tucker was appointed the postmaster in December 23, 1830, and served until 1837. From 1830 until 1970 there were 24 different postmasters. Two of them served more than one time. Theron G. Yeomans was appointed from 1844 to 1846 and also from 1877 to 1878. John W. Baker was appointed three different times: from 1861 to 1865, 1867 to 1877, and 1896 to 1899.

The location of the post office is somewhat in question from the years of 1830 until 1861. At one time prior to 1902 there was a small building on the south side of John W. Baker's general store. Baker's store was located on the east side of Main Street in the north building of what is now 3700 Main Street. This location later became Gordon and Katie Youngman's Variety Store and, in 1976, the Walworth Hardware.

The small building was on the site of the K.O.T.M. (Knights of the Maccabee) Hall. This building at times was used as the post office until the K.O.T.M. was built in 1902. When John Baker was postmaster, the post office was located in his store. When the business was sold to Charles Clark in 1915, the post office remained in that building as Charles Clark became postmaster in 1922. In 1925 he sold the business to T. M. Salyerds who was then appointed postmaster until 1941.



3720 Main Street

In 1941 Charles M. Buckley was operating a hardware and general store in the K.O.T.M. building and was appointed postmaster until 1944. In 1947 the post office was moved to the Grange building located on the west side of Main Street. At that time Gwen Naber was postmaster. Gladys VanHaneghem was postmaster from May 1957 to August 1968.

(Left) In 1968 the post office was moved across the street to the southeast corner of Main Street and the Walworth-Marion Road. In 1987 it was moved a little farther east to Joe Englert's mini-mall which is now owned by Dan Roberts (head of Walworth Properties LLC).



2256 Walworth-Marion Road



Roxy's Salon

The building at the left was originally built sometime between 1874 and 1904 (bottom left photo) by Julian Findley as a carpenter shop. On April 1, 1909 Jay Seely purchased this building. He was a plumber, inventor, tinsmith, and musician (bottom right photo).

In September 1945 after Jay's death, his daughter Bessie inherited this building. She sold the property in 1958 to the Walworth Chamber of Commerce for \$1.00. In 1961 the Town Board approved the establishment of the Walworth-Seely Public Library there.

On August 19, 1962 this building became the town library as the ribbon was held by Kathy Duell Emison and Kathy Triou Howe and cut by Miss Bessie Seely, whose father was Jay Seely, previous owner of the building.

In November 1992 the library moved to the new town complex on Lorraine Drive. Edie Pasquini operated the "Potpourri of Gifts" here until 2004. In 2006 "Expozures" embroidery and silk screening operated here.

Roxy Cantwell opened Roxy's Salon there in 2010 and bought the building in 2018 from Steve MacNeal and Dan Hall.





2248 Walworth-Marion Road

Wee People Nursery School

Years ago, Ray Pembroke owned a 2-car garage on a portion of this site behind his Red and White grocery store.

It has been a beauty salon and the law offices of Robert Stanton also.

This building served as the Walworth Town Hall in 1977-1992. In 1992 an addition was constructed. Court was held here also. The Town Hall moved in 1992 to 3600 Lorraine Drive.

Now it is the Wee People Nursery School. An important part of their program is parental involvement. It encourages participation both in the classroom and through such special events as field trips, Christmas programs, Mother's Day party and the end of the year graduation/picnic.



3720 Main Street

Eastern Shore Associates

At this site, two stores burned in 1910 (bottom right photo).

A Red and White grocery store was built here and was operated by Ray and Frances Pembroke, Minford and Naomi Kester, Jerome and Marge Magin, and Larry and Viola Stubbings. There was also an appliance store here that was operated by George and Joyce Appleman. It closed in the 1950's.

This building in 1968 became the site of the Walworth Post Office after it moved here from the Pacific Hotel building on Main Street across the road. In 1987 the Post Office moved to the Walworth mini-mall.

It then was a laundromat owned by Gene and Pam Bavis from 1987 until 1998.

It was the home of Cleary Insurance in 1998. Carla Cleary sold the business to the Eastern Shore Associates Insurance on January 1, 2016.

At the bottom left is a view of this building from Main Street looking east. This photo was taken in 1907 and is part of the Walworth Historical Society photographic files.

The bottom right photo shows the remains of the 1910 fire.



Salvatore's Pizzeria



3719 Main Street

The property at the southwest corner of Main Street and Walworth-Penfield Road has seen several uses. In the 1940's it was a vacant lot used as a park where band concerts were held.

In 1948 Stanley VanHoover purchased the property and built a gas station which contained an office and car repair bay and had one Esso gas pump. A second car repair bay was added sometime later. Warren Bell worked part-time evenings and weekends for Stanley. When Stanley left in 1958 he leased the building to Radley Oil Company of Marion. Warren rented the building from Radley for two years as a City Service gas station.

(Middle and bottom photos) The station's name was changed to Sinclair when Warren and Betty Bell purchased it in 1960. Warren commented they had to buy two inches of land from Walworth Grange for the lot to be 0.11 acres. The Bell's added a storeroom to the north, raised the roof to the south, and added the large window. Later they sold Exxon gasoline. The Bells sold the property in 1984 to Albert Schreiber who operated it as a repair shop and gas station.



The property was sold to David Villa in August 1991; he rented it to someone who operated a Volkswagen/foreign car repair shop.

In May 2009 Michael DeMareo purchased it but later bought the property at the northeast corner for his business. August 2011 Lo Re Raimondo sold it to Salvatore Fantauzzo of 1720 Culver Road LLC, Rochester.

(Top photo) Salvatore's Pizzeria has remodeled the building, retaining much of the gas station ambience.





3713 Main Street

Vacant

2019: Vacant building (5,504 square feet) sits on 0.30 acres and is for sale. A brass plaque memorial, erected on front lawn many years ago, recognized our military: "In memory of those who gave their lives in service. Crane-Engert Post 1710 American Legion." It is now in the Lions Club Memory Garden at Ginegaw Park.

A large wooden sign containing the names of the local WW II service men and women was located here. A replica plaque is located at the Walworth Town Hall

Pacific Hotel

April 6, 1830: First town meeting was held at the George Smith house. This was the old tavern that stood on the site of the present Temperance House erected by the liberality and largely sustained by the public spirit of the Honorable T. G. Yeomans and known as the Pacific.

Named Pacific Hotel because there was a hotel in Marion to the east called the Atlantic.

Business center for many salesmen stopping to show their merchandise. Twice a year salesmen arrived with yard goods and patterns; displays were set up in the hotel parlor.



The stage from the hotel met each train that stopped at Walworth Station, three miles south of Walworth.

Dinner cost 25 cents, breakfast and lunch 15 cents, and night's lodging 75 cents.

Some of the managers: Glen Petty, Frank Sanford, Louie Furman, Madison and Sophia Reynolds (1888-1891), John Franke and John Rosencrans.

Grange Hall

1929: Walworth Grange #289 members purchased the hotel when their building (the original Walworth Academy) was torn down. Grange meetings were held upstairs. First floor area was rented to businesses.

1931: Grange Hall dedicated. Newspaper story: "One glance at the picture reveals a Grange Hall of unusual worth and no wonder the Walworth members are delighted over their precious possession."

1985: Grangers sold the building due to declining membership and donated a significant amount of the proceeds toward construction of Walworth Historical Society's museum. Grangers completely disbanded in 1992.

American Pool

1985: Grangers sold the building to David Kords, owner of American Pool Supply and American Hobby Shop; South side and middle section used for his businesses.

2009: David moved the businesses to the former fire department building on Walworth-Penfield Road across from Orchard Street. The building is now vacant and is for sale.



3712 Main Street

The Custom Shop-Gun Shop

This business has been serving the Walworth area for over twenty years. They provide guns and ammunition for sale as well as expert gunsmithing and firearm cleaning supplies. The Custom Shop-Gun Shop offers on-line sales and service information on a secure site.

Owner David Dentico has over 30 years experience at gunsmithing as well as having served as a volunteer firefighter and past-president of the Walworth Chamber of Commerce.

This was Ray and Frances Pembroke's house at one time. He operated the Red and White grocery store to the north.

Keith Hartung was the next owner and operated a small liquor store in this building. There was a pizzeria here also.

Gene Bavis bought it from Keith in 1984. Dave Dentico rented it for a few years and then bought it.

The Walworth Hardware Store (north building)



3700 Main Street

The first owners of this building were John and Lucy Baker in 1856. Then Charles and Mary Clark followed by Irvin and Anna Salyerds. Joe Finley owned the north building from 1944 -1948 when he sold it to Norman Hulbert. Norman sold it back to Joe in August of 1950.

Joe never operated it and it sat empty until Gordon Youngman decided to move his ice cream business from across the street into the north building. He used it as an ice cream parlor, variety store, dry goods plus soda fountain and drug business.



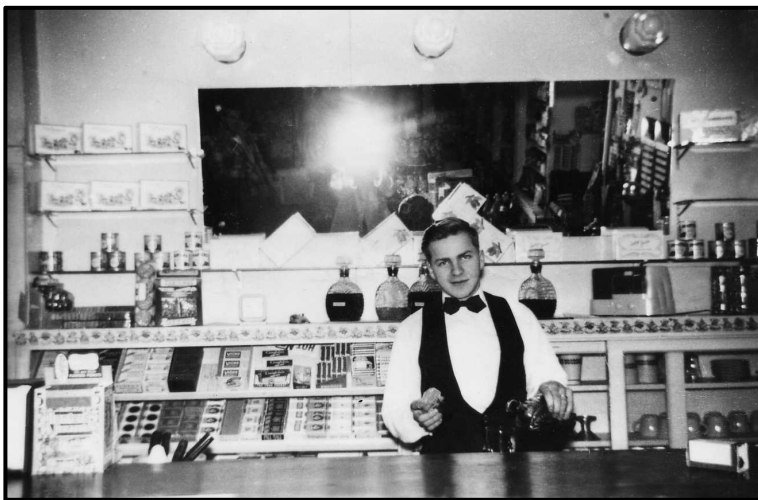
Walworth Hardware Store in the 1950's

In July 1972 Gordon and Katie Youngman bought the K.O.T.M. building to the south from the Wick family, and now owned both buildings. They kept the north store as a variety store and the south store as a hardware store with a passage between the two buildings.

By 1978 he closed the ice-cream business and merged the two stores. The north store was the hardware store with a few sundries. An unfinished-furniture store was in the south building.

In 1990 Gordon and Katie sold the building to their daughter Marlene and her husband Steven Hall.

Marlene closed the business in 2011.



**(above) Gordon Youngman
10/29/1949**



**(right) Gordon Youngman
11/8/02**



3698 Main Street

The K.O.T.M. (Knights of the Maccabees) Building

This building has been the home of The Knights of the Maccabees, Charles Buckley's General Store, Wick's Hardware, Walworth Hardware, and currently NYS Sitepower Corporation

K.O.T.M. This building was built in 1902 on a lot located south of the J. W. Baker General Store. The K.O.T.M. (Knights of the Maccabees) a fraternal organization, needed a meeting hall and contracted with Allison and Carrie Franks to buy a lot of 125 feet by 35 feet off the northern part of their property. The price of the lot was \$225.00. The K.O.T.M. also held dances to earn extra money to financially support the building. The organization's purpose was to provide low-cost insurance to members.

Buckley's General Store According to Gordon Youngman, apparently Charles and Vivian Buckley rented the store from the K.O.T.M. organization in the mid 30's, As the operators of their new business, Charles and Vivian made some drastic changes to the type of establishment the K.O.T.M. had originally formed. The Buckleys ran their store as a hardware and grocery store. In addition, the Buckleys sold oil and Esso gasoline. Charles passed away in 1944 and Vivian purchased the building in June 1945. At one time there was a restaurant on the second floor where the K.O.T.M. had held their meetings and dances. Vivian and their daughter Jean continued with the store until 1948, when they sold it to Jack and Blanche Wick.

Wick's Hardware Jack operated the business as a hardware store. In 1964 Blanche passed away and Jack continued until December 1971 when he became sick. The family kept the store open until after Christmas, and then closed it in hopes of finding a buyer.

Walworth Hardware Gordon Youngman operated the building to the north of the K.O.T. M. building and used it as an ice cream parlor, variety store, dry goods plus soda fountain and drug business. In July 1972 Gordon and Katie Youngman bought the K.O.T.M. building from the Wick family, and now owned both buildings. They kept the north store as a variety store and the south store as a hardware store. In 1990 they sold the building to their daughter Marlene and her husband Steven Hall.

NYS Sitepower Corporation Owned by Dan Hall, son of Marlene and Stephen Hall. This business currently sells and services generators.



The K.O.T.M. building as it appeared in the early 1900's.



3707 Main Street

The tan-colored building at 3707 Main Street has a varied history of uses dating back approximately 180 years. The house was built in 1835 by Theron G. Yeomans.

According to legal records, family history, and folklore, the house was possibly used as a general store or trading post during the 19th century and later as a sport shop. Local residents know it as the home of Harold and Virginia Ginegaw and their eight children for 68 years.

When Harold and Virginia purchased the house in 1946 the first floor consisted of a large room at the front (east) with a small room to the north side. Several small rooms completed the first floor. There was a steel spiral staircase to the second floor toward the back of the house. The cellar beams were split timbers. Virginia told her daughter Carol the front door was so big to accommodate a casket. The Ginegaw's son Greg remembers the cramped living conditions for his parents and their family.

The October 1946 house fire caused the house to be unlivable for several months. Sam McKee saw the fire and notified Virginia, who was hanging up laundry in the back yard. The firemen were quick to respond, saved the main structure, and were able to carry out most of the furniture.

The Ginegaw's daughter Nancy said that three dormers were added to the house in the 1950's. Greg remembers a coal stove in the old kitchen, along with a copper tub that was used for bathing before the installation of a bathroom.

Harold died Feb. 21, 2007 and Virginia remained in their home until her death May 8, 2013.

Dave Dentico now owns this property.

Walworth Youth Center and Baptist Community Center



3697 Main Street

The building began as a Masonic Lodge (bottom right) but on August 15, 2002, it was sold to the Second Baptist Church of Walworth.

It is open for groups to meet and currently AA and a Boy Scout troop meet there.

The Center has been used over the years for various celebrations, baby and wedding showers, fund-raising dinners, various church gatherings and public events.

It continued to host the Blood Drives until 2013. In September of that year the drives were moved to the Fire Hall in Walworth. It's easier to move equipment in and out of there.



Howard and Ethel Triou's IGA store

The building has needed some upkeep over the years. The roof was replaced about two years ago. The steps both going down to the dining room and going up to the second floor were replaced in the first year or so. All the wiring has been replaced. The back steps and door were replaced and in 2015 the septic line was redone. The front door was replaced in approximately 2015.

From 1942 to 1951 Howard and Ethel Triou operated an IGA grocery store on the site. The Trious purchased the business from Joe Finley and in 1952 sold it to Don Brockman and Bud Ennis.



1969: Construction of New Masonic Lodge





3689 Main Street

The Second Baptist Church of Walworth

Second Baptist Church began on the 10th of June in 1832 when twelve men and twelve women met in the little red school house near the four corners of Walworth. Here they formed what was called a conference to walk together in brotherly love.

The next day they met again and drew up Articles of Faith and Agreement and a covenant for adoption. On July 12, 1832, they met with representatives of seven other churches - Palmyra, Macedon, West Walworth, Ontario, Marion, Penfield, Manchester and Greece. And they were a church.

It was the following March when they were officially organized into Second Baptist Church, fully incorporated according to law. The building, which was constructed of stone drawn from Lake Ontario, cost \$2,611. Members pledged their time and a record was kept of the hours each one worked.

Through the years various changes were made to the building and grounds.

In 1874 hitching posts were added for the horses and in 1881 the front sidewalk was installed.

1887 brought bigger changes when \$5,000 worth of renovations were made.

A prayer room was added and a steam boiler replaced the two outdated stoves.

The new building was rededicated on November 30, 1888. While renovations were made, the members joined with the Methodist Church for worship.

The building, like the congregation of Second Baptist, continues to grow and change. In its 185-year history, there were 49 pastors, some long term, some not so long. They continue to host the Harvest Auction on the second Wednesday of October. They purchased the grass lot on Church Street in 1999. In 2003, the church purchased the former Masonic Lodge. It is now the Walworth Baptist Community Center (WBCC) and is home to the Walworth Youth, which is sponsored by Scarlet Thread, as well as for other groups. The WBCC is available to the community for various functions.

The current pastor is Rev. Joseph Stupin.



3655 High Street

The Walworth Gateway Apartments

In 1842 the first Academy was built of cobblestone at a cost of \$4,000 near the southeast corner of Academy and High Streets. A second Academy – a brick building three stories high - was erected east of the first Academy in 1857 at a cost of \$8,000.

The 60's and 70's were periods of population growth in the Walworth area, but it soon was apparent that registration numbers were dwindling. In January 1980 Wayne Central School District officials proposed closing the Walworth Elementary School at the end of the current school year.

After the Town of Walworth declined the offer of the building, it sat empty for five years until it was taken over by C.A.S.H. (Community Action in Self Help, Inc.) in 1985 and rehabilitated into 26 low-income apartments. The project eventually failed and the building was again abandoned, beginning a slow deterioration.

Sadly, this 84-year-old building met its demise during the April 11-14, 2014, weekend when a wrecking crew and equipment began demolishing the once-proud structure. Bruce Carey purchased the building (then known as the Academy Street Apartments) in the spring of 2006 at a county tax auction, but sold it several months later when it was bought at another auction by Alex Tamoutselis.

Alex had hoped to raze only a portion of the building and possibly construct an apartment building. However, his insurance company notified him in early April that the building was in such bad shape they would be pulling their coverage. The decision to raze the building was inevitable. The building was destroyed and the present apartments were built.

Gateway is a senior living facility and opened in late 2018.





3680 High Street



Evergreen Place

The walking tour nears the end as we approach the WHS museum. At the upper end of Academy Street, the remains of a burned-out home can be seen.

For almost 180 years the large, imposing house known as Evergreen Place stood at 3680 High Street – a symbol of a once-grand home owned by one of Walworth’s elite families. A disastrous fire on June 7, 2016 destroyed the house but not its memories.

Theron G. Yeomans built this home for his wife, Lydia, and their children. With its impressive appearance and lush landscaping, Evergreen Place soon became an area showplace.

Theron started a nursery business in Walworth, imported the first herd of Holstein cattle to Wayne County in 1879, operated a cooper shop and dry house for his fruit business, and was active in local and state politics.

When the Walworth Methodist Church was built in 1871, he requested that the church’s front door be placed so he could look from his home at the east end of Academy Street and into the church.

Following Theron’s death in 1901, the house had numerous owners and occupants. At one time it was the home of School Commissioner Albert H. McMurray and his wife, Emma. In later years, it was divided into apartments. Teachers at the nearby Walworth Academy and Walworth High School lived there.

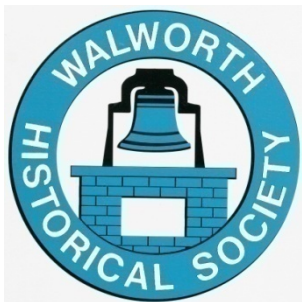
Unfortunately the house was a total loss and is being demolished by its current owner David Villa.

This concludes the Walking Tour of Walworth.

We are back at the museum again and the Walworth Historical Society officers and board members wish to thank you for your interest.



The past presidents of the Walworth Historical Society include Gordon Youngman, Faith Reynolds, Anne Walczyk, Gene Bavis, John Traas, Kay Scott, and Mary Jane Devlin; Jessie Keymel is the current president.



The WHS logo was designed by WHS board member and former art teacher Larry Ruth.