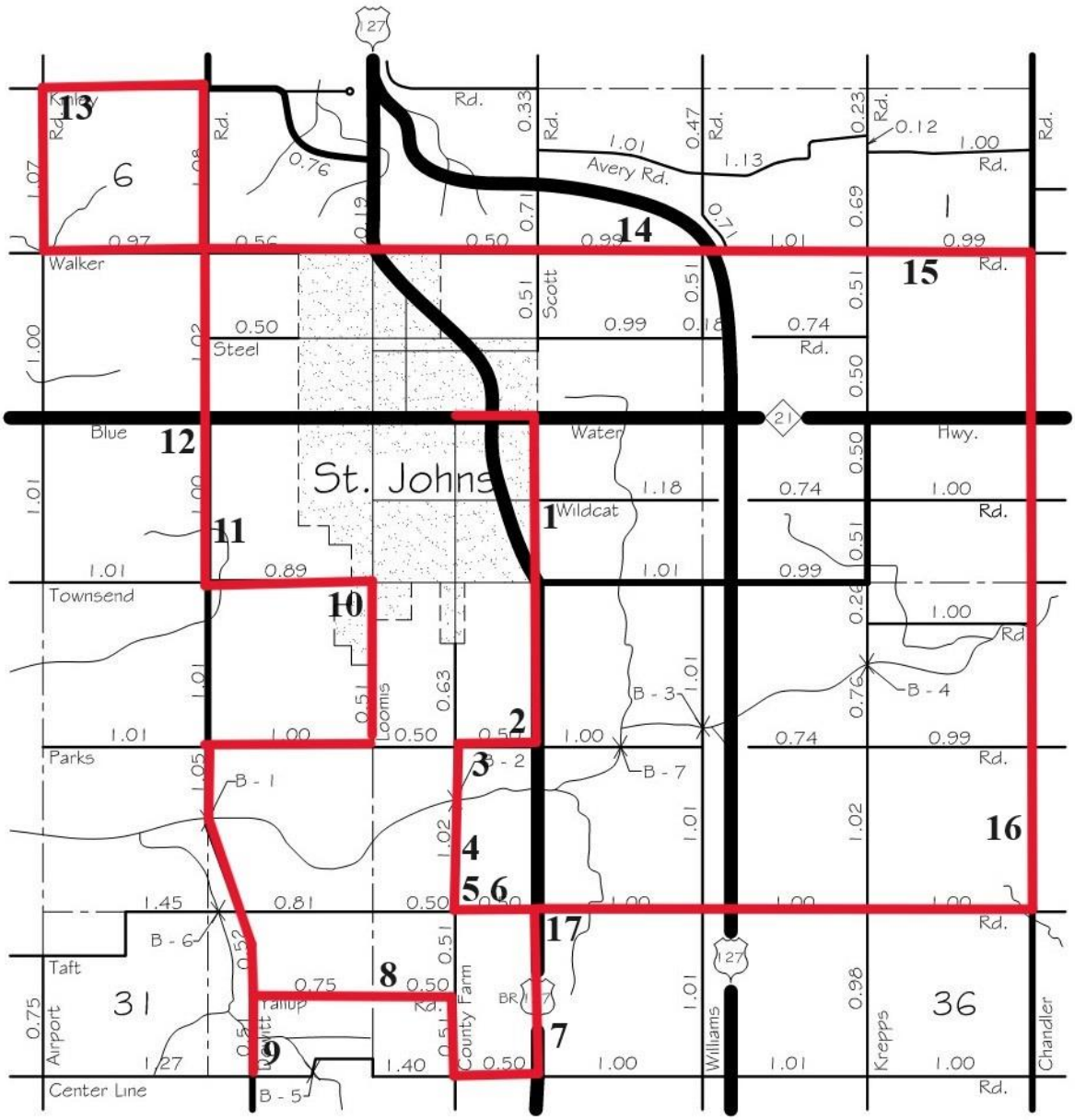
Bingham Township Tour

The Bingham Township tour begins in St. Johns and ends at Old-27 and Taft Road. From M-21 go south on Scott Street.



1	**Swartz House** 1001 S. Scott, St. Johns This Victorian style house was built prior to 1868 Continue south merging on Old-27 to Parks Road and turn right.

2	**Crosby Mint Still Site** NW corner of Old-27 and Parks Road The mint growing business started on the area muck fields. J. E. Crosby, Sr. began growing mint in 1912 and built a still near this corner to distill the mint oil. While the Crosby family no longer grows mint, there are still 3 active growers in the area with thousands of acres of mint. Continue west on Parks Road.
3	**Old Radio Studio** In 1959 Justin Marzke constructed WJUD am 1580 here as a local full-service daytime radio station. In 1965 he sold the station to Robert and Beverly Ditmer who changed the call letters to WRBJ. Art Wainwright who worked at his uncle's station in the 1960's recalled arriving at the studio one morning to find a lion in the lobby which his uncle Robert Ditmer had allowed a traveling circus to keep there. The studio is no longer used by the current owners. At County Farm Road turn left.
4	**Old County Farm** 3815 County Farm Road This is the location of the Clinton County Farm. County farms and poorhouses were created to provide basic food, shelter, and work for indigent people prior to welfare being provided by the federal government. At Taft Road turn left.
5	**Old Bingham United Brethren Church** 1476 W. Taft Road This building was constructed in 1889. This church merged with the Bengal United Brethren Church on January 1, 1968, and built Pilgrim Church (now Pilgrim Global Methodist Church) at 2965 W. Parks Road. This building was then sold and converted into a residence.
6	**South Bingham Cemetery** 1324 W. Taft Road This cemetery contains the graves of some who died at the Clinton County Farm along with area residents. At Old-27 turn right.
7	**Sperry Farm** 4791 S. US-127 This farm was started by the Sperry family in 1840. The house has been divided into apartments. Turn right on Centerline Road, then right on County Farm Road, and then left on Yallup Road.
8	**Yallup Farm** 2020 Yallup Road This farm was established by the Yallup family in 1853. Turn left on DeWitt Road.

9	**Old Stoney Creek School** 4611 S. DeWitt Road This building dates to the late 1800's and was used as a school until 1969. It has since been converted into a private residence. Note the swings in the side yard. At Centerline Road turn around and go back north 1 ¾ miles to Parks Road and turn right. In 1 mile turn left on Loomis Road. You are now following the route of the old Interurban which ran between Lansing and St. Johns from 1901-1929.
10	**Old Fairgrounds Site** SW corner of Loomis/Lansing St. & Townsend Road The first Clinton County Fairs were held in DeWitt and St. Johns before moving to this location in 1866. This site had a racetrack with grandstand which held over 2,000. There were also a baseball field and about 12 buildings. The last fair was held in 1934 due to financial struggles caused by the Great Depression. The land was sold to pay off debts. A smaller 4-H fair was then started at the St. Johns city park. Turn left on Townsend and right on DeWitt Road.
11	**Old Lamb School/Bingham Township Hall** 1637 S. DeWitt Road. This brick building was built about 1910 after the previous wooden school building had been moved by warring neighbors in a dispute over where it should be located. After the school closed in 1969 it was converted into the Bingham Township Hall. Continue north to the intersection of DeWitt Road and M-21.
12	**AgroLiquid Headquarters** This is the world headquarters of AgroLiquid, a fertilizer company. They have research farms in Essex Township. This building includes a free farming museum with hands-on exhibits. Continue north 1 mile to Walker Road. Just north of M-21 you will cross the CIS bike trail that runs along the old Grand Trunk Railroad grade. At Walker Road turn left and then right on Airport Road to the intersection of Airport and McKinley Roads and turn right.
13	**Gardner House Site & Gardner Cemetery** SE corner of McKinley and Airport. Samuel Gardner arrived here in 1840 and established a tavern called the Gardner House on this corner which became known as Gardner's Corner. 1 Mile south on the southwest corner of Walker and Airport Roads was the Gardner School (demolished). Just to the east is the small Gardner Cemetery. Continue on McKinley to DeWitt Road and turn right. In 1 mile turn left on Walker Road.
14	**Old Sage School** Walker east of Scott on the northside of road This building was constructed in 1885. At one time there was a road just to its west that no longer exists. This building is deteriorating, but was still standing as of this writing. Continue east on Walker Road.
15	**Old Parker School** 3005 E. Walker This current building was built in 1880. After the school closed in 1965, the building was sold and converted into a private residence. Continue to Chandler Road and turn right. Go south 3 ½ miles.

16	**Jumper Farm** 3388 S. Chandler Road This sesquicentennial farm was founded in 1859. The house is of Victorian design. Turn right on Taft Road and go 3 miles toward Old-27.
14	**Old Bingham Grange Hall** 1050 E. Taft Road This building was built as a grange hall when US-27 was widened and the previous hall was demolished. Grange is a farm organization. After the grange closed this location, it was sold and is currently Autumn's Edge Retreat.

Additional Reading Suggestions:

Clinton County Schools: A brief history of the schools of Clinton County (CCHS)