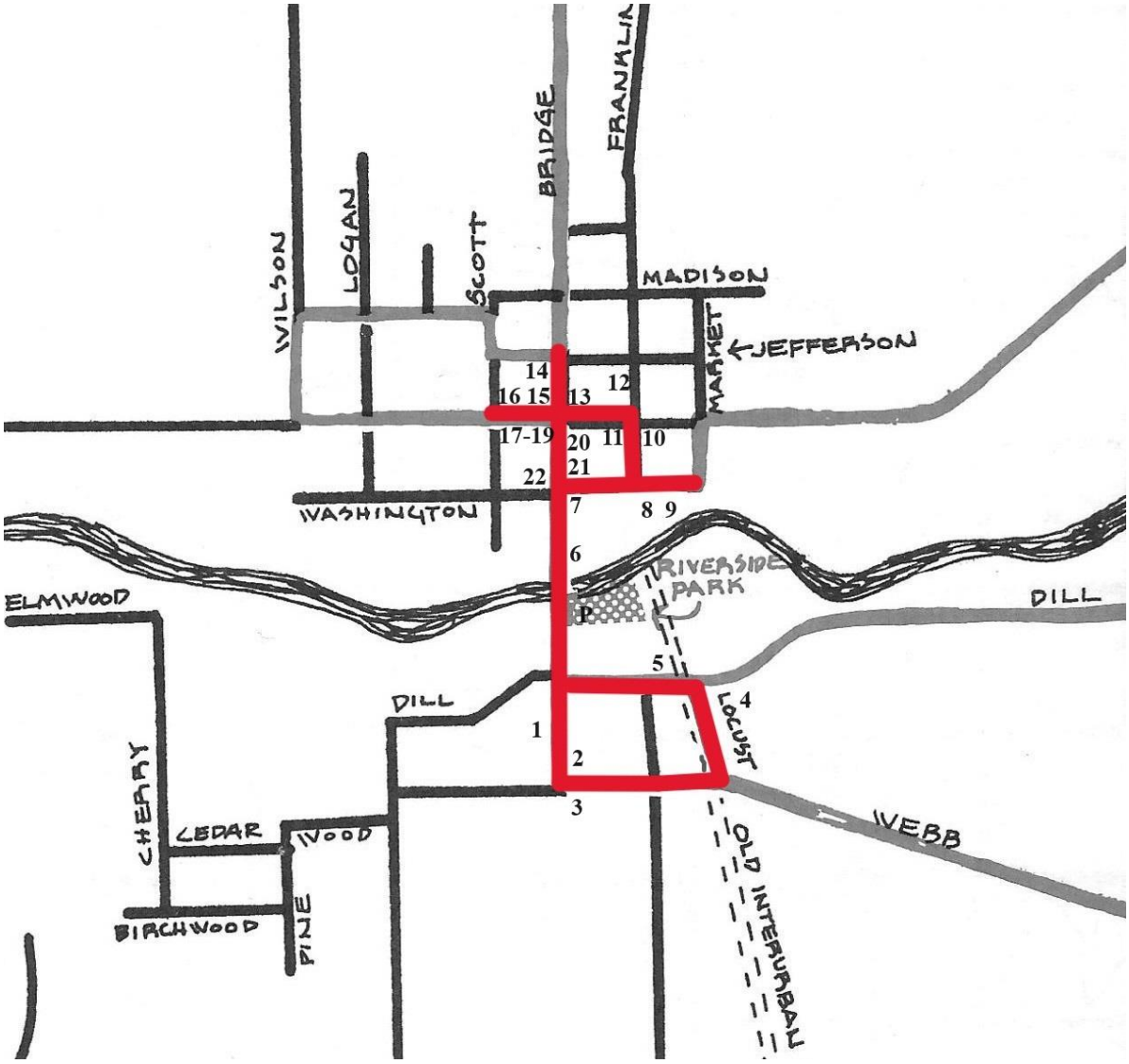
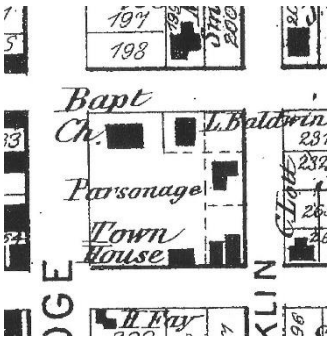
DeWitt City Tour #1

This walking tour focuses on the central business district and the New Albany area south of the river. It begins and ends in the parking lot of Riverside Park just south of the Looking Glass River. Riverside Park was at one time the DeWitt High School athletic field.

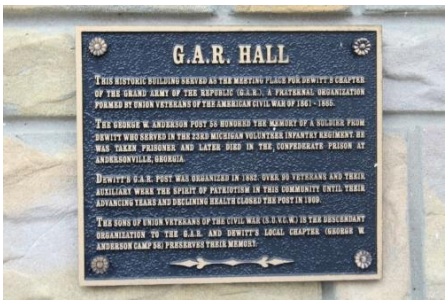


1	**Baker-Sibley-Reed House** 502 South Bridge Street *DeWitt Historic Site* This frame house was built in the 1850's for Joab and Oliva Baker. Joab was one of the first lawyers in Clinton County. Joab's daughter Olivia married Clinton County's first probate judge, Hiram Stowell.	
2	**Adams-Gillett-Durfee House** 607 South Bridge Street *DeWitt Historic Site* This saltbox house was built in the late 1840's for Joseph Adams an early surveyor. It was one of the first built in New Albany. Later it was owned by the Gillett and Durfee families.	
3	**DeWitt Hotel and Halfway House** 102 Webb *DeWitt Historic Site* Built about 1839 as a hotel for George T. Clark in what was then the town of New Albany. This was a hotel used as a horse changing station for the stagecoach. For many years it was the home of the Moon and Klaver families. It has recently been enlarged and extensively remodeled. Directly to the east was the location of the old New Albany general store built in the early 1840's for George T. Clark. It was razed in 2021. As you walk to the next site notice the old Interurban grade on your right just before you turn onto Locust Street.	
4	**First Grist Mill Site** Locust and Dill *DeWitt Historic Site* A boulder with plaque marks the location of the first grist mill in Clinton County. It was built in 1844 by Jesse and Milo Turner. They dammed Prairie Creek to provide the power source. The mill was destroyed in a 1901 fire.	

5	**Interurban Grade and Cut** 211 East Dill Road *DeWitt Historic Site* Constructed in 1900, this grade allowed the Interurban to cross over the Looking Glass River. There was a large trestle over the Looking Glass River and a small one over Dill Road. The Interurban ran between Lansing and St. Johns from 1902-1929 with stops about every mile. In DeWitt it ran up Franklin Street through what was then the back of the cemetery. The station was on the west side of the 100 block of S. Franklin.	
6	**First Settlement Marker** East side of 200 block of S. Bridge Street *Clinton County Pioneer Society Historical Site* This plaque commemorates David Scott, founder of DeWitt. This plaque was made in 1913 and was originally placed on the southwest corner of Main and Bridge Streets. After the 1930 fire the plaque was rescued and placed in storage until 1976 when it was at first placed just south of the current location. The boulder came from the Otis Smith farm in Watertown Township.	
7	**Halterman-Newman House** 203 & 209 South Bridge Street *DeWitt Historic Site* This colonial revival house was built in 1908 for Peter and Effie Halterman on the location of a hotel built at that corner by Captain David Scott in 1839. The small building at 209 S. Bridge was Peter and Glenn Halterman's barbershop. Turning the corner, the area on both sides of Washington Street was at one time the Walker Lumber and Coal Yard.	
8	**Strickland Law Office** 202 East Washington *DeWitt Historic Site* This building was built about 1846 by Joseph Adams who sold it to Walter Hubble, an early DeWitt merchant. Later this was the law office of Randolph Strickland, a prominent attorney and politician, before he moved with the county seat to St. Johns.	

9	**First County Jail** 206 E. Washington Street *DeWitt Historic Site* This house was the original Clinton County Jail until 1862. It was built in 1841 at a cost of $1,078. The jailor's residence was in the main floors with the jail in the basement or single story rear. For many years it was the home of Albert Lott, a wagonmaker.	
10	**DeWitt Theater Building** 202 East Main Street As you walk down Franklin Street, you are following the Interurban route. The depot was in the middle of the west side of the block Jerome Vincent, the local funeral director, constructed this building as the DeWitt Theater in 1948. The theater closed in 1956 and was used as a furniture store and archery range until converted into a restaurant.	 c1950
11	**Woodman Hall Building** 126 East Main Street This was built as the Woodman Hall. It was the meeting place of the Royal Neighbors and the scene of plays, dances, and dinners. Later it was Keck's Appliance. It has been extensively remodeled.	 c1920
12	**Town Square** North side of 100 block The block on the north side of this block was originally the DeWitt Town Square. In the middle of the block was the town hall. At first much of this was reserved and not built on, but after the county seat moved to St. Johns additional buildings were built in or moved to this block. Only the old Brazee building still remains.	 1873

13	**Brazee Store Building** 102 North Bridge Street As you walk east on Main Street you will pass the old Perry Brothers Chevrolet building which was built in 1939 replacing the original wood frame buildings. In 1896 the old Methodist Church building which had been built in 1866 was moved across the street to this location and extensively remodeled into Brazee's General Store. Over the years it has been remodeled and the home of many businesses. Originally on this side of the block stood the Masonic Hall and Baptist (Community) Church buildings. Later additions of the Woodruff Band and Post Office buildings from the 1950's survive and have been repurposed as a coffee shop and bakery.	 1920's
14	**DeWitt Grange Hall Building** 119 North Bridge Street The DeWitt Grange Hall was built prior to 1880 and used by Addison Woodruff as a store prior to being purchased by the Grange. The building was sold in 1967 and has been an ice cream parlor and market since.	 1978
15	**Old Methodist Church Building** 115 North Bridge Street *DeWitt and Michigan Historic Site* This is the third building on this site. The original built in 1866 was moved across the street in 1896 and a brick L-shaped one took its place. This building was destroyed by fire in 1928 and the current building was built in 1931. The Methodist Church left the building after its 1970 merger with Emanuel Methodist Church at Schavey and Clark Roads. After being used by another church it was converted into a brewery.	 1978
16	**Dr. Simmons and Telephone Office Building** 124 West Main This building, currently the Family Barbershop, was at one time the office of Dr. Richmond Simmons and later the DeWitt telephone office.	 c1922

17	**GAR Hall Building** 121 West Main Street This building was a billiard hall until 1883 when the Grand Army of the Republic (Civil War veteran group) began using it as their meeting place. Over the years it has been the home of many different businesses.	
18	**West Main Building** 117 West Main Although it sat near the Clinton House, this building has the distinction of having survived the 1930 fire due to the wind blowing from the west.	 c1920's
19	**Clinton House Site** Corner of Main and Bridge Streets *DeWitt Historic Site* On this site Captain David Scott built the Clinton House in 1841-2. Later renamed Joe's Tavern, it stood here until destroyed by fire in 1930. At the time of its construction it was considered one of the finest hotels between Grand Rapids and Detroit. It contained 35 rooms with the entire third floor a ballroom. The ballroom acted as the county courtroom during DeWitt's days as the county seat.	 Early 1900's
20	**Linn Hardware Building** 107 South Bridge The oldest existing building on this block, this was once Linn Hardware. It has had many other occupants over the years. Currently it is Bridge Street Social.	 1920's

21	**Griswold Ford Building** 129 South Bridge This building was originally occupied by Griswold Ford. There was a showroom, garage, and gasoline pumps. Later it was a grocery store and restaurant. Currently it is the Family Tree restaurant.	 1920's
22	**Cloverdale-Twiss House** 204 South Bridge Street *DeWitt Historic Site* The first house on this lot was the Moulton Sprague home which burnt in the early 1900's. This large stucco house was built around 1920 for John Coverdale who operated a cheese factory just south of the house. He was also an early DeWitt Ford dealer.	

Additional Reading Suggestions:

DeWitt Area History by Ken Coin