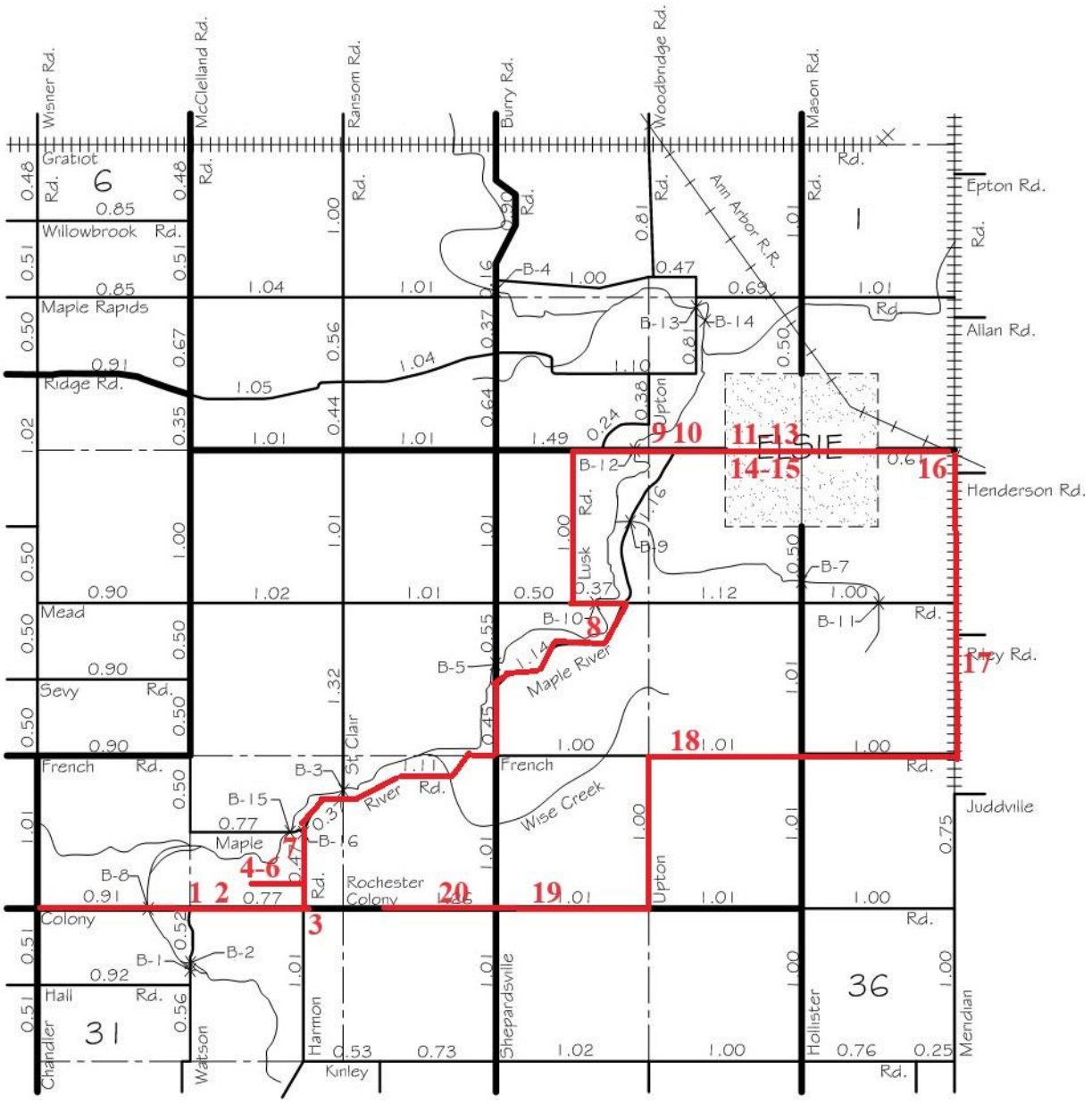
Duplain Township Tour

This tour begins at the intersection of Chandler and Colony Roads and endson Colony Road east of Duplain.



1	**Duplain Cemetery** East Colony Road just east of Watson Road This is the final resting place of many of the residents of the Rochester Colony community.

2	**Duplain/Mapleton/Rochester Colony** On February 29, 1836, a company was formed in Rochester, New York that purchased land in Clinton County. They sold shares for $125. Each share gave the owner 80 acres of farmland and a village lot. At first the colony village was called Mapleton. In 1841 it was renamed Duplain. Duplain came from Riviere duPlain which was the French word for the Maple River. Because the first settlers came from Rochester, New York, this area became known as the Rochester Colony. *Continue on Colony to Harmon Road.*
3	**Kaufman House** 5752 E. Colony Road This house is believed to be the oldest in the Colony. *Go north on Harmon and left on the first road. Go to Friendship Park and turn around.*
4	**Rochester Colony Michigan Historical Marker and boulder** Just west of the old Methodist church near the picnic shelter This marker was erected in 1970 to mark the founding of the Rochester Colony in 1836.
5	**Old Duplain Methodist Church** Maple Road, Duplain This church was built in the mid-1850's and in the early days was the center of a three-county Mapleton Circuit by Methodist circuit riders. A Michigan Historical Marker is located here giving a brief history of the settlement.
6	**Old Colony Schoolhouse** 5599 Maple Road One of the first schools in Clinton County opened in the colony in 1838 with Bathsheba Sever as teacher. This building was used until 1965 when it was converted into a community center.
7	**Temple House** 4193 N. Harmon Road The west wing of this house as a plank cabin built around 1875. *Go northeast on the Maple River Road to Shepardsville Road and go right at the next intersection to continue on Maple River Road. This is the old curvy route following the Maple River between Duplain and Elsie/Craven Mill.*
8	**Kelley House** 5971 N. Maple River Road Thomas Craven built this house prior to 1875. Craven, along with his brothers Joseph and Robert, erected a sawmill on the Maple River in 1845. They believed the water power would lead to a town and so they platted out a village at that site called Cravens Mills. When that failed Elsie was founded. *Turn left on Mead Road and right on Lusk Road and left on Island Road.*

9	**Island Road Historical Bridge Park** Old Upton Road near Island Road. This was the site of the Craven's Sawmill and dam. The old dam provided power to the sawmill and later Kellogg Brothers & Johnson grist mill whose remnants can still be seen. Nearby is a steel bridge constructed in 1901 by Detroit Bridge and Iron Works and is an example of one of the many old bridges that crossed the Maple River and Looking Glass River in southern Clinton County. The bridge was the main route across the river until 1966. The site has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2015.
10	**Elsie** The village of Elsie grew out of another town's failure. The original venture was known as Craven's Mills which was situated 3/4 mile west of present-day Elsie. Joseph, Thomas, and Robert Craven erected a sawmill in 1845 on the Maple River and plotted out a village. However, in 1867, J. D. and William Sickels decided to build a new village on their farm a mile to the east. The new village was named for the daughter of Franklin Tillotson, the first postmaster.
11	**Elsie Village Cemetery** West Main Street, Elsie This cemetery was established in 1851 and contains the graves of the early area settlers. It was supplanted by Riverside Cemetery on Upton Road north of island Road.
12	**Elsie United Methodist Church** 160 W. Main Street This building was built in 1880.
13	**Old Elsie Theater** 122 W. Main The Elsie Theater was built by Cap Hovey in 1946. The 320 seat theater was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Leon Robbe in 1948. After Leon Robbe's death it was sold to James Cech who operated it until it closed in 1959.
14	**Elsie Library and Historical Room** 145 W. Main Street The Elsie Historical Room is usually open Wednesday afternoons. It contains historical artifacts and archival materials.
15	**Elsie "Cow" Statue** W. Main Street near water tower This statue was originally a black Angus bull used by a Lansing car dealership. The statue was given to Elsie and painted with white spots to match the local Holstein dairy cows. *Continue east on Main Street/Island Road.*
16	**Cobb Farm** 9702 Island Road This farm has been in the Cobb family since 1864. The house is a Modified Southern Colonial style and took three years to gather the necessary lumber and materials to construct. *At Meridian Road turn right.*

17	**Green Meadows Dairy Farm** 9697 W. Riley Road This large dairy farm was founded in 1922 by Merle Green. Today the farm contains 7,000 acres with 9,500 head of cattle and is one of the largest Holstein dairies in North America. The farm covers portions of Clinton and Shiawassee counties. *Go south to French Road and turn right.*
18	**Ballantine House** 8317 E. French Road This house was built in 1869. *Turn left on Upton Road and right on Colony Road.*
19	**Coleman Farm** 7301 E. Colony Road This farm was started in 1850. The farm house is a typical upright and wing design.
20	**Thornton House** 6801 E. Colony Road This house with hand hewn beams and field stone foundation was built in 1861.

Additional Reading Suggestions:

Elsie 1857-2007: One Hundred and Fifty Years in the Life of a Community by Diane Saylor