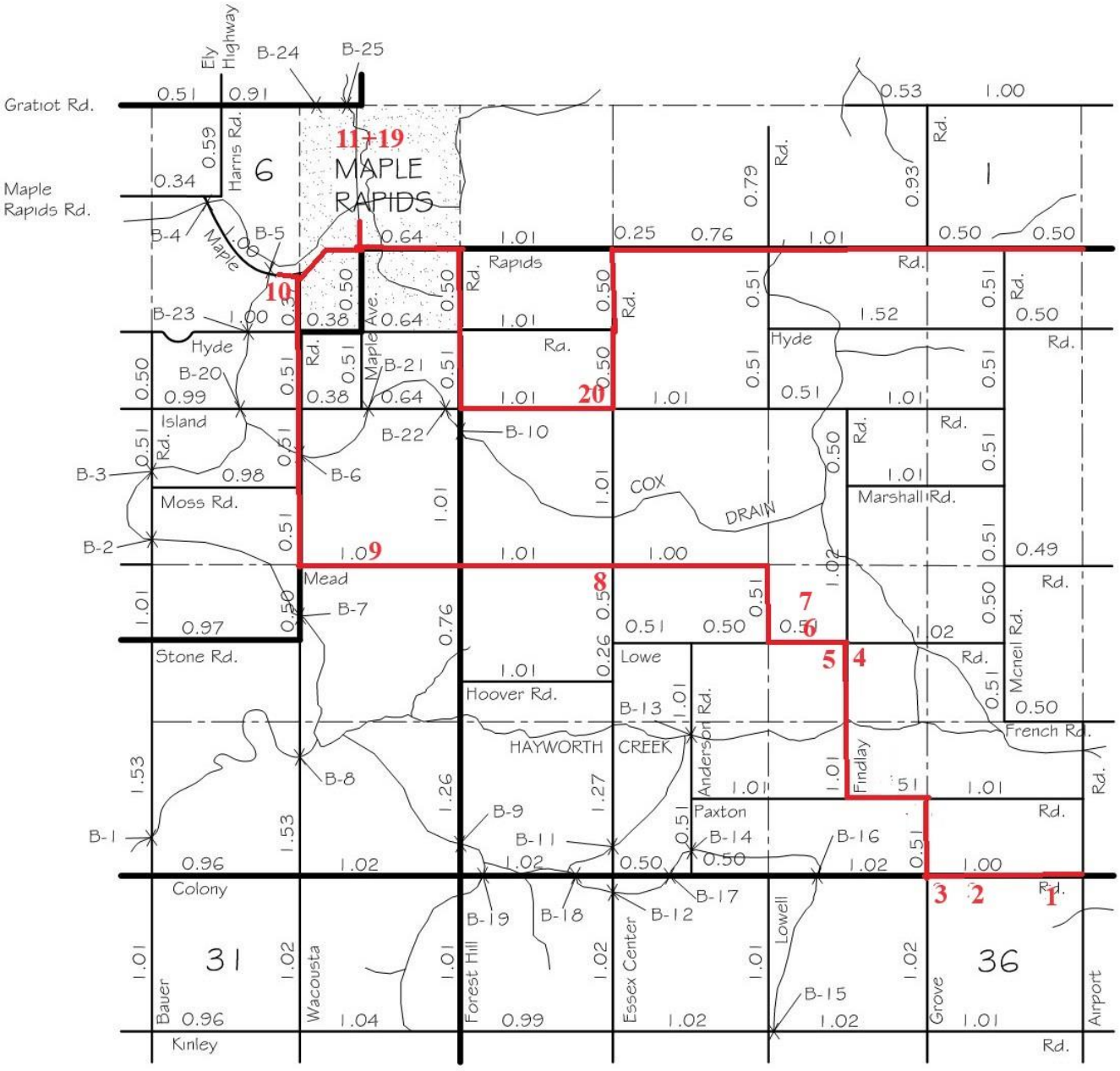
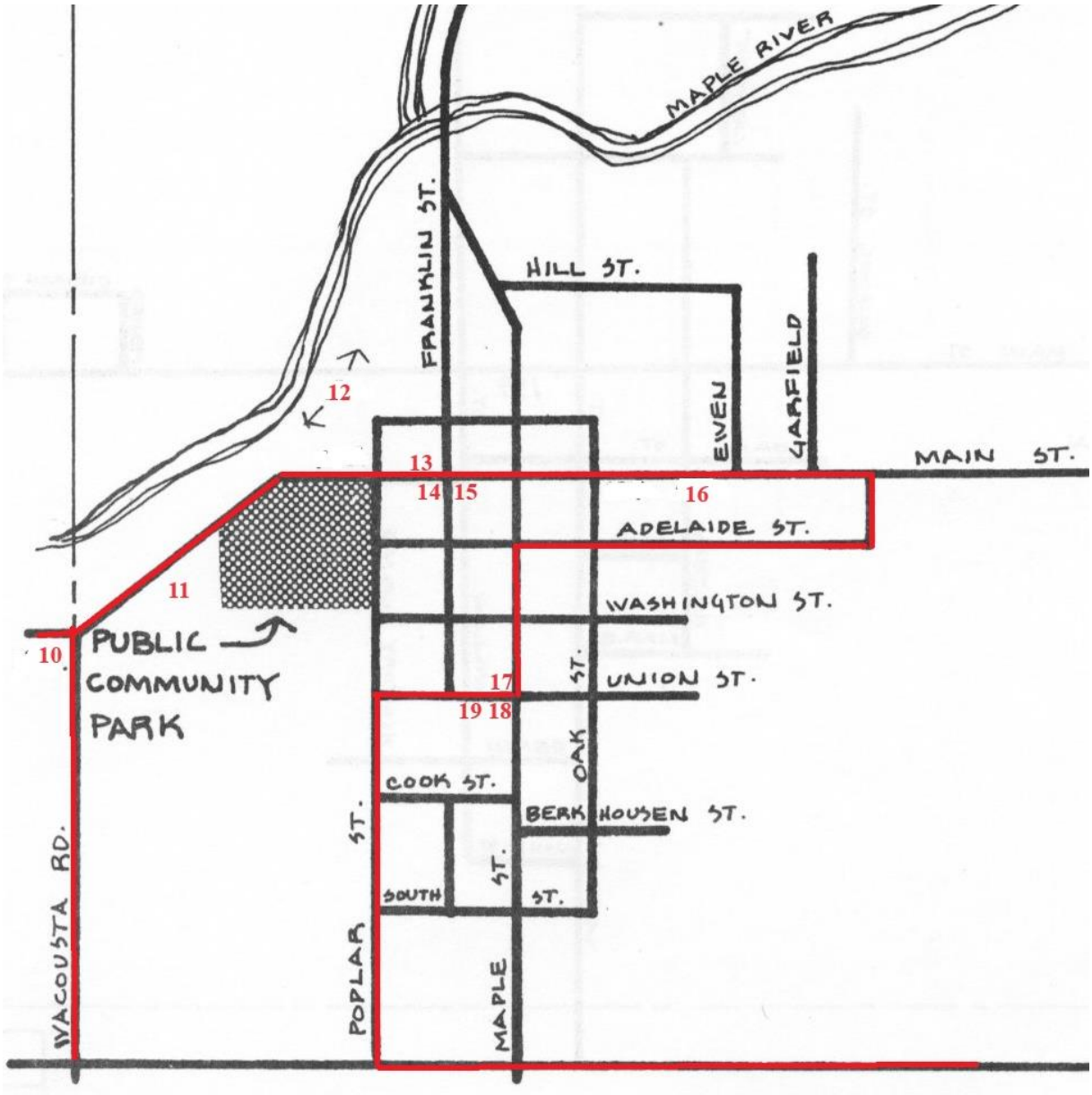
Essex Township Tour

This tour begins at the intersection of Airport and Colony Roads and ends on Maple Rapids Road east of Maple Rapids.



1	**Prairie Cemetery** ¼ mile west of Airport Road on Colony Road. This is a small inactive cemetery of area pioneers.
2	**Moss Farm** 4817 Colony Road This farm has been in the same family for over 100 years.
3	**Prairie School** Southeast corner of Colony and Grove Roads This school was named for the natural prairie located here which Native Americans used for encampments. The school was built in 1873 and closed in 1957. *Turn right on Grove, left on Paxton, and then right on Findlay Road.*
4	**Lowe Methodist Church** 5485 W. Lowe Road The oldest part of this building was built in 1890 at a cost if $1,988.86. It recently left the United Methodist Church and joined the Global Methodist Church. *Turn left on Lowe Road.*
5	**Old East Essex School** 5531 W. Lowe Road The East Essex district was formed in 1949 after a portion of the Maple Rapids school district split off. The school merged with St. Johns in 1965 and closed in 2010.
6	**Lowe Cemetery** W. Lowe Road ½ mile west of Findlay Road This cemetery is the final resting place of those from the Lowe area. *Turn right on Lowell and then left on Mead Road.*
7	**Agroliquid Experimental Farms** Lowe area AgroLiquid, whose world headquarters is in St. Johns, has a number of research farms in this area. Most farms are signed as North Central Research Stations.
8	**Warnke House** 5977 Essex Center Road This house built in 1873 sits on the site of the first house in Essex Township built in 1837.
9	**Warren House** 8550 W. Mead Road This house was built about 1865 on the site of old Native American campgrounds. *Turn right on Wacousta Road.*
10	**Stevens House** 7839 N. Wacousta Road This house dates to 1870. *Go east (right) on Main Street.*



11	**Maple Rapids** The first European settler was George Campau who established a trading post here about 1826. William A. Hewitt, the founder of the village, arrived in 1852 and purchased 240 acres. He constructed a dam, sawmill, store, hotel, and platted out the village. The village incorporated in 1881.
12	**Campau Trading Post** This trading post was established along the Maple River at present day Maple Rapids about 1826 by George Campau who was the first European to set foot in Clinton County.
13	**Old Elmac/Maple Theater** 116 W. Main Street, Maple Rapids For many years this movie theater was operated by the Gleason's who had a grocery store next door.

14	**Dewey's Trading Post** 104 S. Maple Street, Maple Rapids NOOOO A grocery store has been here during most of its history. It has been Dewey's Trading Post since 1971.
15	**Upton Hardware and Maple Hotel Site** 104 E. Main Street, Maple Rapids This building was built about 1919 by brothers Joseph and Elmer Upton as a hardware with an opera house on the second floor. It replaced the Maple Hotel which sat here and on an adjoining lot.
16	**Hicks House** 232 E. Main St., Maple Rapids This house was built in 1874. At one time the front portion was a clothing store. *Turn right on Ashland, right on Adelaide, and left on Maple Street.*
17	**Maple Rapids Methodist Church** 330 S. Maple Street This church is a listed Michigan State Historic Site. The cornerstone of this building was laid on April 14, 1868, at its previous location on the corner of Washington and Franklin streets. In 1897 the building was moved to the present location and was remodeled and enlarged. This location was where Solomon Cressinger's mansion briefly stood before it was destroyed by fire in 1883. The church basement was enlarged in 1913 to add a kitchen and social hall.
18	**Maple Rapids Congregational Christian Church** 410 S. Maple Street, Maple Rapids This congregation was originally established in Union Hall which was transferred to the church in 1876. After the school burned in 1945 3rd and 4th grade classes were held here until a new building could be erected. *Turn right on Union Street.*
19	**Old Maple Rapids School Site** 209 Union Street, Maple Rapids This is the site of the Maple Rapids School which was destroyed in a 1945 fire. The Maple Rapids Community Center is now at that location. *At Popular turn right and continue until you reach Maple Rapids Road. Turn left and right on Forest Hill Road. At Island Road turn left.*
20	**Sowles Cemetery** 7066 W. Island Road This cemetery includes a Civil War monument to the 38 soldiers who died from this area. *Go north (left) on Essex Center Road to Maple Rapids Road and turn right.*

Additional Reading Suggestions:

Old Lamplighter – Available to view at CCHS archives