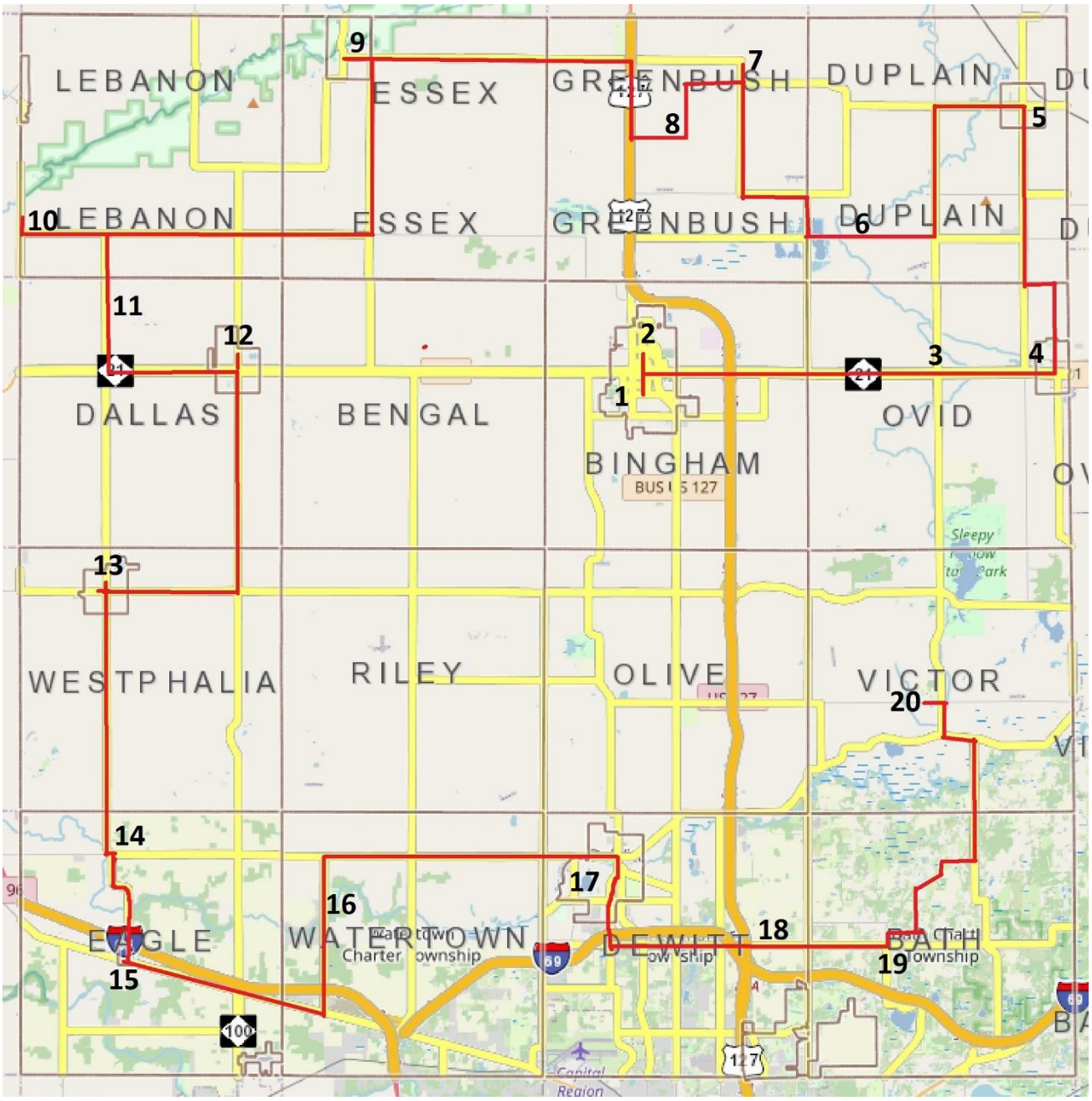
Clinton County Highlights Tour

This tour takes you through all of the towns and to many of the most important historic sites. The tour begins at the Clinton County Historical Museum in St. Johns and ends at Victor Township.

Additional tours are available for each township and the cities of DeWitt and St. Johns.



1	**Clinton County Museum** 106 Maple Street (This is a one way north bound street.) The Clinton County Museum includes the Paine-Gillam-Scott house which was originally built by John W. Paine in 1860 and is the oldest brick house in St. Johns. It was restored and converted to a museum in 1978. The office of Dr. Samuel Gillam and Dr. Walter Scott was restored and added to the museum in 1986. The museum also includes a carriage house. A bicycle band sculpture was added to the lawn in 2022. The museum is normally open on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from May through November. This is a designated Michigan Historic Site.
2	**Downtown St. Johns** While in St. Johns drive or walk through the downtown area. Some historic buildings include: 1) Clinton County Courthouse 110 E. State – In 1998 this building replaced the original 1871 courthouse which sat where the south parking lot is located. There are a number of memorials on the courthouse grounds. 2) Clinton Northern Railway Museum 107 E. Railroad Street – The museum includes the former Grand Trunk depot, railroad artifacts, and several vintage railcars. 3) Downtown St. Johns Tour – If you want a more in-depth tour, try the downtown business district walking tour. *Travel 7 miles east on M-21 to Shepardsville.*
3	**Shephardsville** Shephardsville was founded in 1866 by William Shepard as a railroad stop between St. Johns and Ovid. 1) Next to the Corner Store on M-21 is the Michigan Rushers historical marker designating the first professional football game played in Michigan at this location. 2) The Shepardsville United Methodist Church at 6990 Winfield is a unique field stone building. *Continue 3.3 miles east on M-21 to Ovid. Turn north on Main Street to enter downtown.*
4	**Ovid** Ovid was founded after H. G. Higham selected this site as a railroad station. A major early industry was the Ovid Carriage Works. Today the largest local industry is the Michigan Milk Producers plant. 1) Carriage House at 206 N. Main Street. 2) Old Congregational Church at 22 N. Main Street. This is a designated Michigan Historic Site. 3) George D. Sowers House at 131 E. Williams Street. This is a designated Michigan Historic Site. *Go north about 2 miles on Main Street/N. Ovid Road to Kinley Road. Turn west on Kinley to Hollister Road (first intersection). Turn north and go 4 miles to Elsie.*

5	**Elsie** The Village of Elsie was founded in 1857 as a railroad station town. The first settlement was about ¾ of a mile west on the Maple River at the location of the former Craven's Mills which was established in 1836. 1) Island Road Historical Bridge Park – Go west on Island Road/Main Street to the park at Old Upton Road -It includes Upton Road Bridge, Elsie Mill Pond Dam, and old mill site. *Continue west on Island Road to Shepardsville Road. Turn south and go 3 miles to Colony Road. Turn west and go 1 mile to Duplain/Rochester Colony*
6	**Duplain/Rochester Colony** In 1936 an association from Rochester, New York, purchased land here and by that winter several families had settled here. At first it was called Mapleton, but later renamed Duplain. The area is often referred to as The Colony or Rochester Colony. 1) Michigan Historic Marker gives a history of the settlement. *Go west on Colony Road. Turn north on Chandler and go 1 mile. Turn west on French Road. Turn north on Welling Road. Continue to Eureka.*
7	**Eureka** Eureka was settled in 1836. It was known as Williamsport, Barrington, Swizzletown, and Greenbush until the name of Eureka was chosen in 1867. *Go west on Hyde Road. Turn south on Scott Road. Continue to Old Greenbush Church.*
8	**Greenbush** This former Greenbush United Methodist Church building at 6505 N. Scott Road, was built in 1898 and is a fine example of a country church. On May 21, 2015, the congregation voted 10-3 to discontinue rather than merge, and held their last service on June 21, 2015. The building was sold and is currently privately owned. This is a designated Michigan Historic Site. *Travel west on Marshall Road. Turn north on US-127. Turn west on Maple Rapids Road. Continue to Maple Rapids.*
9	**Maple Rapids** Maple Rapids, located on the Maple River, began as a trading post. It officially became a village in 1881. 1) Campau Trading Post site – Louis Campau established a trading post here in 1835 near the rapids on the Maple River. *Go east on Main Street to Forest Hill Road. Turn south and go 4 miles to Colony Road. Turn west and travel 8 miles to Hubbardston Road. Turn north. The East Plains Cemetery is on the east side of the road.*
10	**East Plains Cemetery** This is the final resting place of Philip Parmelee. Known as "Skyman" he was an early airplane pilot. He is credited with the first commercial flight, cross-country speed and endurance records, first parachute jump, and first military reconnaissance flight. He died during an flying exhibition at Yakima, Washington in 1912. There is a Clinton County Historical Marker at this grave site. A Michigan Historic marker is at Capital Region International Airport. *Go south on Hubbardston Road. Turn east on Colony Road. Go east 2 miles. Turn south on Grange Road. Travel 2 miles to the Most Holy Trinity Cemetery.*

11	**Most Holy Trinity Cemetery** This is the burial site of Clem Sohn, also known as "Batman." He was an airshow daredevil during the 1930's. Clem would jump from a plane and glide wearing his custom wingsuit. When he was a few hundred feet from the ground he'd open his parachute. He died at Vincennes, France, on April 25, 1937, when his parachute failed to open. *Travel one mile south on Grange Road. Turn east on M-21. Go 3 miles to Fowler.*
12	**Fowler** The original town of Dallas was established in 1857 ¾ of a mile east of here as a railroad station. It was moved to this location in 1867 and named Isabella. That name was changed to Fowler two years later. 1) Sturgis Opera House 143 S. Main – This building was built in 1901 with a hardware store on the first floor and opera house above. 2) Fowler Depot Replica – It is located on the Fred Meijer CIS Trail which follows the old Grand Trunk railroad line. Clem Sohn memorial marker is also here. 3) Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church 545 N. Maple – This building was completed in 1917 replacing an earlier building. *Go south on Wright Road. Travel 5 miles to Price Road. Turn west and continue 3 miles to Westphalia.*
13	**Westphalia** Westphalia was first settled in 1836 by German Catholics from the Eifel area of Westphalia, Germany. 1) St. Mary's Church 201 N. Westphalia – This is the fourth Catholic church building. The first was a log building in 1838. The second, a wood frame structure called St. Peter's, was used from 1847 until 1869. It was replaced by a magnificent brick church which was dedicated in 1869 and burned in 1959 while being repaired. The current church building opened in 1962. This is a designated Michigan Historic Site 2) Westphalia History Museum 120 W. Main – This museum is open on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings during the summer and fall. *Go south 6 miles on Grange Road/Westphalia Street to the North Eagle Cemetery.*
14	**North Eagle Cemetery** 12300 S. Grange Road Near the front of this cemetery is a historic marker at the grave of Joshua Simmons II. Joshua was a Revolutionary War veteran who settled here in the 1830's. This is a designated Michigan Historic Site. *Continue south on Grange Road 2 ½ miles to Eagle.*

15	**Eagle** The original village was ½ mile to the east. In 1872 George McCrumb donated land next to the railroad tracks for a depot and the village was moved here. 1) Two former church buildings are on Washington Street which is a block west of Grange Road. 2) First store building at 14360 S. Grange has been operating since 1873. *Turn east on Grand River Highway.* 3) As you travel on Grand River Highway you will be following the Grand River Indian Trail which later was US-16 and the main road connecting Detroit and Grand Rapids. 4) ½ mile east near the original site of the town at 13270 W. Grand River Highway is the old Eagle Village School which was built in 1908. It is privately owned. *Continue 5 miles on Grand River Highway past Wright Road until you get to Wacousta Road and then travel 2 ½ miles north until you reach Wacousta.*
16	**Wacousta** First called Waterloo, Wacousta was established in 1837. It was named Wacousta in 1848 for a fictious Indian maiden. 1) Wacousta General Store - 13051 Wacousta Road – A portion of this store was originally on the banks of the Looking Glass River and used as a trading post. 2) Wacousta-DeWitt Masonic Lodge - 9030 W. Herbison – This building was built in 1860 as a hotel and tavern. *Go north 1 mile to Howe Road. Turn east and travel 6 ½ miles to DeWitt.* The old Clark schoolhouse is on the northwest corner of Howe and Francis Roads.
17	**DeWitt** DeWitt was founded by Captain David Scott in 1833 on the north side of the river. Shortly afterward Milo H. Turner built New Albany on the south side. Today they are both a part of the City of DeWitt. Until 1857 DeWitt was the county seat. 1) First Jail – 206 E. Washington – This building was the first Clinton County jail. The jail was in the rear single-story part and the sheriff's residence in the 2-story front. 2) Interurban Grade- 415 S. Bridge – Visible from Riverside Park this grade was constructed for the Interurban bridge that crossed the Looking Glass River. The Interurban operated from 1900 until 1929 connected St. Johns with Lansing. 3) New Albany Hotel - 102 E. Webb – This building was built about 1839 as a hotel and later was used as a horse changing station for the stagecoach that ran between St. Johns and Lansing. It is now a private residence. 4) DeWitt City Tours – Three walking tours are available on our website. *Travel south on DeWitt Road/Bridge Street to the roundabout. Go east on Clark Road 3 miles to Gunnisonville.*
18	**Gunnisonville** Intersection of Wood and Clark Roads This community was founded by Elihu Gunnison in 1853 and is a designated Michigan Historic District. The district includes: 1) Gunnisonville Cemetery – This cemetery was established in 1855 when Elihu's 11 year-old son Ora was buried here. 2) Gunnisonville Methodist Episcopal Church – This church was built in 1888. 3) Old Gunnisonville School – This is the 4th building on this site. It was built in 1907. It is privately owned. *Travel east 4 miles on Clark Road to Bath.*

19	**Bath** The community of Bath was established as a railroad stop between Lansing and Owosso in the 1860's. 1) James Couzens Memorial Park at 13753 Main Street is the site of the Bath School Disaster. On May 18, 1927, Andrew Kehoe blew up a wing of the school building killing 38 children and 2 teachers. He also killed 5 other people and himself. The park contains the cupola from the building. This is a designated Michigan Historic Site. 2) The Bath School Museum is currently housed in the Bath Middle School at 13675 Webster Road. Check with their Facebook page for hours. *Travel north on Webster or Main Street to Sleight Road. Turn east and go north on Angle Road until it ends on Howe Road. Turn east and travel until it ends on Upton Road. Turn north until it ends on Round Lake Road.* Round Lake Road follows a part of the old Northern Grand River Trail used by the early settlers. *Go west one mile to Shepardsville Road and north a mile to Alward Road. Turn west on Alward Road.*
20	**Victor Township Hall** 6843 E. Alward Road 1) Old Dennison School sits just west of the township hall. This building built in 1882 originally stood where the Sleepy Hallow State Park campground is now located. It was moved here in 1997 after local citizens banded together to save it from being demolished. 2) Old Reed Church is across the road to the south. It was constructed in 1877. Both buildings are owned by Victor Township. This ends the Highlights Tour. **To get to Old US-27:** *Take Alward Road west to Old-27.* **To get to US-127 Option 1:** *Take Alward Road east to Shepardsville Road. Go north 3 miles to Price Road. Turn west and travel 4 ½ miles to US-127.* **To get to US-127 Option 2:** *Take Alward Road east to Shepardsville Road. Go south to Round Lake Road. Travel west to US-127.* **To get to M-21:** *Take Alward Road east to Shepardsville Road. Continue north on Shepardsville Road to M-21.*