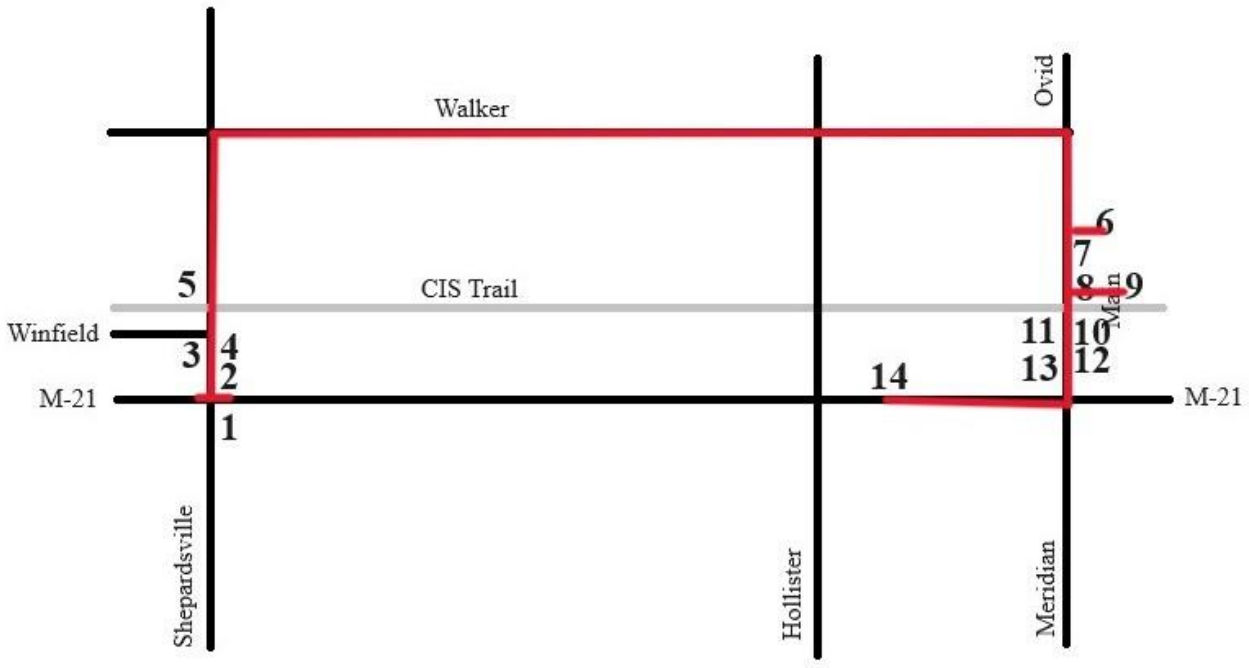
Ovid Township Tour

This tour begins on M-21 at the intersection with Shepardsville Road and focuses on the towns of Shepardsville and Ovid. There are also some optional additional sites you may choose to visit.



1	**Michigan Rushers Historical Marker** Just east of the Shepardsville Corner Store On July 4, 1895, the first professional football game in Michigan was held here in Smith's Meadow. The Clinton County Historical Society has erected a marker next to the corner store on M-21. *Go north on Shepardsville Road.*
2	**Shepardsville** This small unincorporated community was started through the efforts of Willaim Shepard in 1866 as a railroad stop between St. Johns and Ovid. During the early days the area flourished with several stores and a hotel. These early stores were destroyed by fires in the 1870's and never rebuilt. The old railroad track is now a bike trail.
3	**Shepardsville United Methodist Church** 6990 Winfield Road This church has a unique field stone exterior.

4	**Shepardsville School** 1210 N. Shepardsville Road This school was built in 1895 and closed in mid-1960's. After it closed it was used as a Methodist Church youth center and later an Amish School followed by The Good Shepherd Chapel and Hall.
5	**CIS Trail** This trail that follows the old Grand Trunk Railroad grade runs north of M-21 across Clinton County. *Go north to Walker Road and turn right. At Ovid Road/Main Street turn right. Turn left on First Street. [For optional Sherburne School (see below #16) go north to Kinley and west to Ovid Road]*
6	**Beach House** 247 E. First Street This Queen Anne style house was built around 1872.
7	**City of Ovid** H. G. Higham, chief engineer of the old Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad, selected the site for the Ovid railroad station. This caused the town to be platted and built at this location. One of the major early industries was the Ovid Carriage Works. For some time the town was larger and more prosperous than St. Johns. Today the major local industry is the Michigan Milk Producers plant at 431 W. Williams Street which has been there since 1939. There is a Michigan Historical Marker for Ovid in front of the Old Congregational Church.
8	**Old Congregational Church** 222 N. Main Street This impressive building was built around 1872 on the corner of High and Park Streets. It was moved to this location by oxen in 1899. Its clapboard structure has an impressive 3 stage tower and Gothic details. In 1943 the Methodists and Congregationalists merged and used this building until 1972. It was a private residence for a time and is currently the home of Vineyard Creative Arts Theatre. It houses a 60-seat theatre for youth plays along with hosting laser tag and special events. A Michigan Historical Marker is in front of the building giving the history of Ovid and this building.
9	**Carriage House** 206 N. Main Street, Ovid This is an exhibit of a c1888 Daisy Elliptic Top Buggy manufactured by the Ovid Carriage Works. The Ovid Historical Society purchased it in 1996 and then raised the money for this building to house it. *Turn left on Williams Street.*
10	**George D Sowers House** 131 E. Williams Street This house was built in 1869-70 for George D. and Carrie Sowers, a prominent local businessman. There is a Michigan Historical Marker in front of the house. *Return to Main Street and go 1 block and turn right.*

11	**Anthony Bontrager Building** 113 E. Front Street, Ovid Named to honor Anthony Bontrager who worked to restore many Ovid buildings. This building was home over the years to a horse drawn carriage factory, soda fountain, music and clothing stores, and a church. *Return to Main Street and go south.*
12	**Emily Kelley Building** 110 S. Main Street, Ovid This building was over the years home to the horse-drawn carriage industry, a video store, church, tavern, recreation center, hardware store, dancehall, medical office and scrapbook company. It honors Emily Kelley who worked diligently to restore Ovid's downtown buildings.
13	**Old Kent Bank** 111 S. Main Street, Ovid A marker erected by the Historical Society of Michigan is on this building which was founded as the State Savings Bank in 1897.
14	**First Baptist Church** 304 S. Main Street, Ovid This church dates to 1860. *At M-21 turn right.*
15	**Pink House** 9099 M-21 This house and windmill was built by Raymond Fury who had fallen in love with a woman from Holland who he hoped to entice to marry him. Unfortunately, she was not impressed.

Other Optional Sites:

16	**Sherburne School** 2990 N. Hollister Road at KinleyRoad The first school on this site was a 12x16 foot log cabin in 1856. The current building was built in 1870 and converted into a residence after the school closed in the mid-1960's.
17	**Wildcat School** 5900 Wildcat Road at St. Clair This school started in 1868 in a log cabin at this location. This was replaced with a brick veneer building in 1889 that burned in 1891. Its replacement saw the same fate and burned in 1925. The fourth building was built in 1926 and burned a year later. The current building was converted into a residence in 1967 after the school closed.
18	**Serviss School** 4007 E. Taft at Chandler This school in 1842 and was located in four different buildings within a mile of here until this schoolhouse was built in 1895. At one time this was known as the Bogus School after a bogus money scheme in the area. After the school closed it was turned into a residence.

19	**Richards School** 5641 Faragher at Harmon This school was formed in 1843 and the current building was built around 1900. The school closed in 1956 and the building was converted into a residence.
20	**Sleepy Hollow State Park (shared with Victor Township)** 7835 E. Price Road This state park was dedicated in 1965 and opened in 1976. Lake Ovid was created by damming the Little Maple River in 1975. Due to record rainfall the lake filled in one year instead of the 2-5 years that had been expected. The park lands included two old one-room school buildings. The Denison/Dennison School building was originally located where the campground is today. It was moved east across the road and later next to the Victor Township Hall. The Grove School which had stood on the northeast corner of Price and Shepardsville Roads was demolished.

Additional Reading Suggestions:

http://ovidhistoricalsociety.weebly.com/now-and-then.html