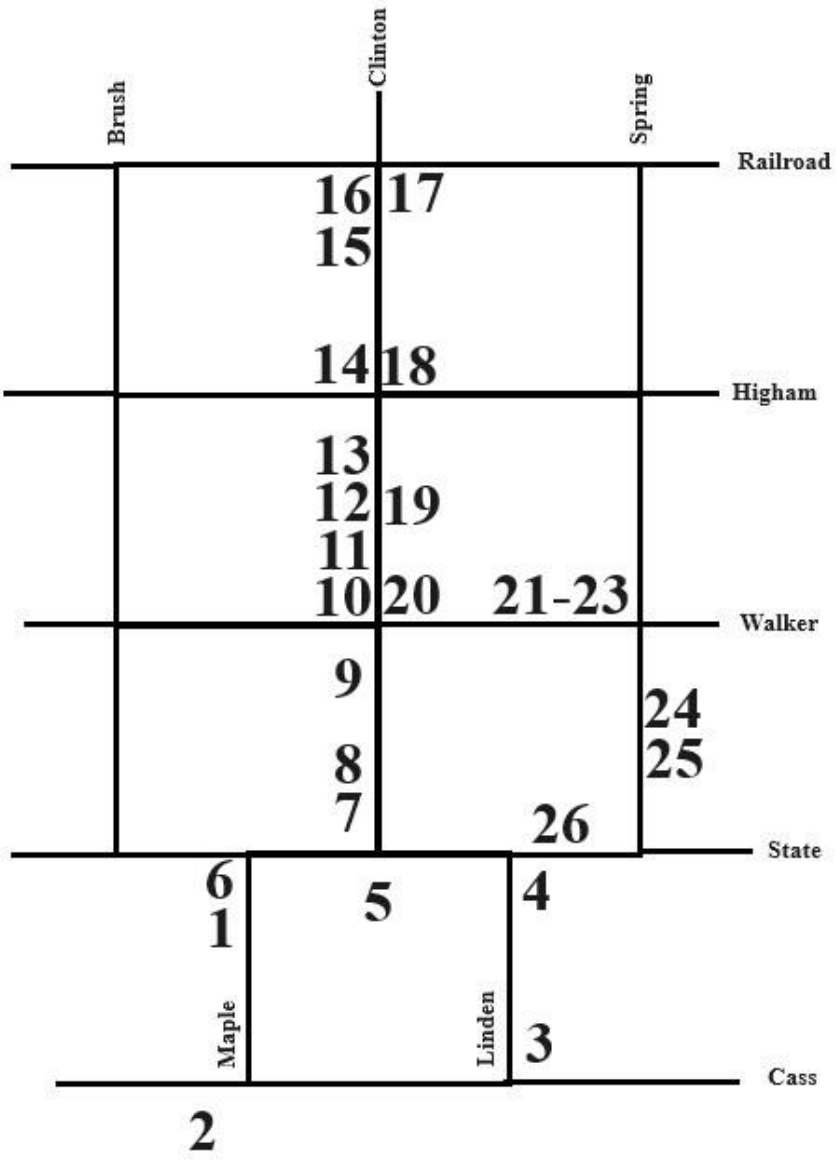
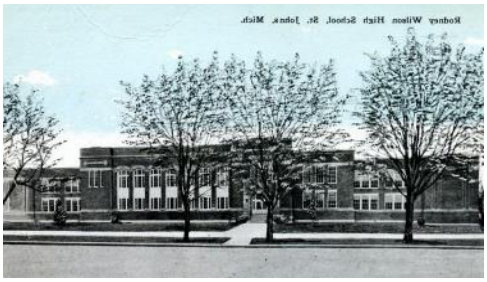
# St. Johns Township Tour – Business District

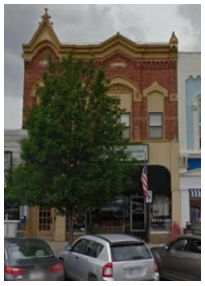
This walking tour begins and ends at the Clinton County Historical Museum.



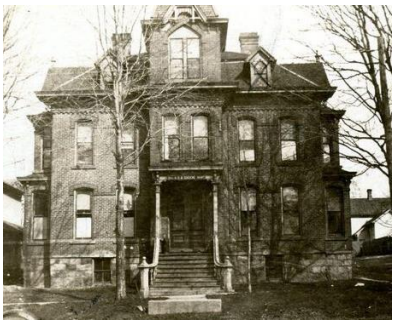

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| **1** | **Clinton County Historical Society Museum**<br>106 Maple Street<br>The museum includes the Paine-Gillam-Scott house, medical office, and a carriage house.<br>This was the first brick building in St. Johns. Prior to becoming a museum it was the office of the Mid-Michigan Health Department.<br>There is a Michigan Historic Marker and bicycle band statue in front of the museum which is open seasonally on Wednesdays and Sundays. |  |

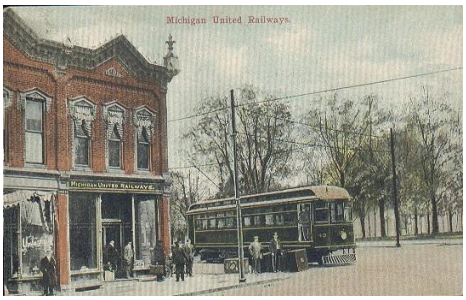
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| **2** | **Old Rodney B. Wilson School**<br>101 W. Cass Street<br>This school opened in 1925 as a high school named for Rodney B. Wilson who had died during the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic. Later it was a junior high before closing in 1998. |  |
| **3** | **St. Joseph Catholic Church**<br>109 Linden Street<br>The first Catholic church was located near the railroad tracks on Whittemore Street. The current building was dedicated in 1908 on the site of the Randolph Strickland mansion which was purchased and torn down so the church could have a prominent location on the courthouse square.<br>St. Joseph School just east of the church was opened in 1934 and was added onto in 1958 and 1963. |  |
| **4** | **First Methodist Church Building**<br>200 E. State Street<br>This is the third Methodist church building. The first two were a block east on State Street. This building was opened in 1938 on the location of the old Perrin House hotel.<br>The church is currently operating as Redeemer Church – St. Johns. |  |
| **5** | **Clinton County Courthouse**<br>100 East State, St. Johns<br>The original courthouse was completed in 1871 patterned after the Bay City Courthouse after the county seat moved from DeWitt in 1857. Wings were later added to the building to keep up with the growth and development of the county.<br>The present courthouse was constructed in front of the original one which was demolished in 1998. The old courthouse site is now a parking lot.<br>There are a number of memorials on the courthouse grounds you may visit.<br>**Grand Army of the Republic Marker**<br>The marker was erected in 1924 by the Ladies Relief Corp to honor Civil War veterans. | <br>Old Courthouse |

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| | **Centennial Pine**<br>This pine was planted on July 18, 1956, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of St. Johns.<br><br>**Clinton County Veterans Marker**<br>Erected in 1974 by the Blue Star Mothers, this marker next to the sidewalk pays tribute to all veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars from Clinton County.<br>**Clinton County Veterans Marker II**<br>This marker on the ground was erected in 1976 to honor all Clinton County veterans. | <br>New Courthouse |
| **6** | **Congregational Church Building**<br>100 Maple Street<br>The cornerstone of this Gothic style church with a 109 foot tower was laid in 1899. Due to declining attendance the church closed in 2022.<br>It is currently Community Church of St. Johns.<br>*Next walk down the west side of Clinton Avenue.* |  |
| **7** | **Clinton Theater Building**<br>111 North Clinton Avenue<br>The Clinton Theater was built on this site in 1935 replacing the Iris Theater and operated until about 1987.<br>It is currently a dance studio. |  |
| **8** | **J. C. Penney Building**<br>115 North Clinton Avenue<br>J. C. Penney operated a store here in the Chapman Building from 1927 until 1992.<br>Presently it is a church. |  |
| **9** | **Iris Theater and D & C Store**<br>123-127 North Clinton Avenue<br>The building on the left (123) was built in 1919 as the Iris movie theater. It closed on October 27, 1935, having been replaced by the Clinton Theater.<br>The building on the corner has housed a number of businesses including for many years the D & C store. |  |

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| **10** | **Parr's Drugs Building**<br>**State Bank of St. Johns Building**<br>201-203 N. Clinton Avenue<br>A pharmacy has been on this site since at least 1862. The Parr family operated a drug store here from 1910 until 1999 when they sold the business to Atlas Drugs.<br>Adjoining to the north is the old State Bank of St. Johns building. It was constructed in 1894 and renovated with a granite façade in 1921. This space was taken over by Parr's Drugs in 1963.<br>It is currently a bank. |  |
| 11 | **Masonic Temple Site**<br>205 ½ N. Clinton<br>A building at this location was the home of the Masonic Lodge since it was dedicated in 1868. A second floor was added in 1909. |  |
| 12 | **MacKinnon Building**<br>211 N. Clinton Ave<br>This store was originally built in 1876 as Bunday's grocery store. Under the sidewalk is an old storeroom where butter and eggs were kept. |  |
| 13 | **Allison Opera House**<br>217 North Clinton Avenue<br>The 2nd floor of this building was the Allison Opera House with their jewelry store on the main floor. Later it became Kurt's Appliance. |  |
| 14 | **Steel Hotel site**<br>301 North Clinton Avenue<br>R. M. Steel opened an impressive hotel on this site in 1888. At the time it was considered one of the finest hotels outside of Detroit with steam heat and a bathroom on each floor. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1975. |  |

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| 15 | **Woodbury Flower Shop**<br>321 North Clinton Avenue<br>This flower Shop opened in 1911 in what had previously been a butcher shop. It was operated by the Woodbury family for over 110 years before being recently sold. |  |
| 16 | **Old Oddfellows Hall**<br>323 North Clinton Avenue<br>This was once the home of the St. Johns Oddfellows and Rebekahs. In the early 1980's the building was in such bad repair the city considered ordering it be demolished.<br>*Cross the street and walk back down the east side of Clinton Avenue two blocks.* |  |
| 17 | **O. P. DeWitt & Sons Building**<br>320 North Clinton<br>This building was originally a wholesale grocery business. Most of the building's windows have been removed giving it a very different look from 100 years ago. |  |
| 18 | **Old Spaulding Hardware Building**<br>300 North Clinton Avenue<br>Frank M. Spaulding ran his hardware business here from around 1890 until 1945 when it became the Alan R. Dean Hardware. In 1998 it became Gil-Roy's Hardware. |  |
| 19 | **200 Block East**<br>These store fronts have housed a number of businesses over the years. Bruno's Bar has been a fixture on the corner of Higham and Clinton for many years. Fowler & Son Hardware was at 220 N. Clinton and Western Auto at 216 N. Clinton. |  |

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| 20 | **Old St. Johns National Bank Building**<br>200 North Clinton Avenue<br>The St. Johns National Bank building was constructed in 1908 on the site of Plumstead Hall. Plumstead Hall was used for county government during the first years of St. Johns as the county seat.<br>It is currently St. Johns Brewing Co.<br>*Turn left down Walker Street.* |  |
| 21 | **Old Post Office**<br>117 E Walker Street<br>This was the location of the St. Johns Post Office until the present one was opened on State Street in 1935. |  |
| 22 | **Old Fire Department**<br>119 E. Walker Street<br>This brick building was built in 1874 after the previous wooden fire station at the same location burned. It was replaced with the current fire station on State Street. |  |
| 23 | **Old Municipal Building**<br>201 North Spring Street<br>This building designed by local architect R. V. Gay served as the St. Johns municipal building and Bement (now Briggs) Library for many years.<br>*Turn right down Spring Street.* |  |
| 24 | **Hart Hospital**<br>108 N. Spring Street<br>First known as Wiggins Sanitarium when it was built around 1888. In 1911 it was renovated into a 15-bed hospital by Doctors Andrew and Eugene Hart. It was converted into an apartment building after the opening of Clinton Memorial Hospital. Presently it is the Abraham & Gaffney accounting firm. |  |

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| 25 | **First Frame House**<br>106 N. Spring Street<br>Built around 1854, all of the lumber was hauled from a sawmill at Rochester Colony. Known at various times as the Whittemore House and Gibbs House, it was originally located on the east side of Clinton Avenue.<br>Recently it has been Harriet's Beauty Shop and the Redwings Barber Shop.<br>*At State Street turn right.* |  |
| 26 | **Fire Bell**<br>109 E. State Street<br>This bell used to summon firemen from 1877 to 1942 is in front of the current St. Johns fire station. |  |
| 26 | **Interurban Passenger Depot**<br>102 North Clinton Avenue<br>This was the depot for the Michigan Urban Railway interurban that ran from St. Johns to Lansing from 1902-1929. Later it was a restaurant. Currently it is a sports shop.<br>*Return to the Clinton County Historical Museum.* |  |