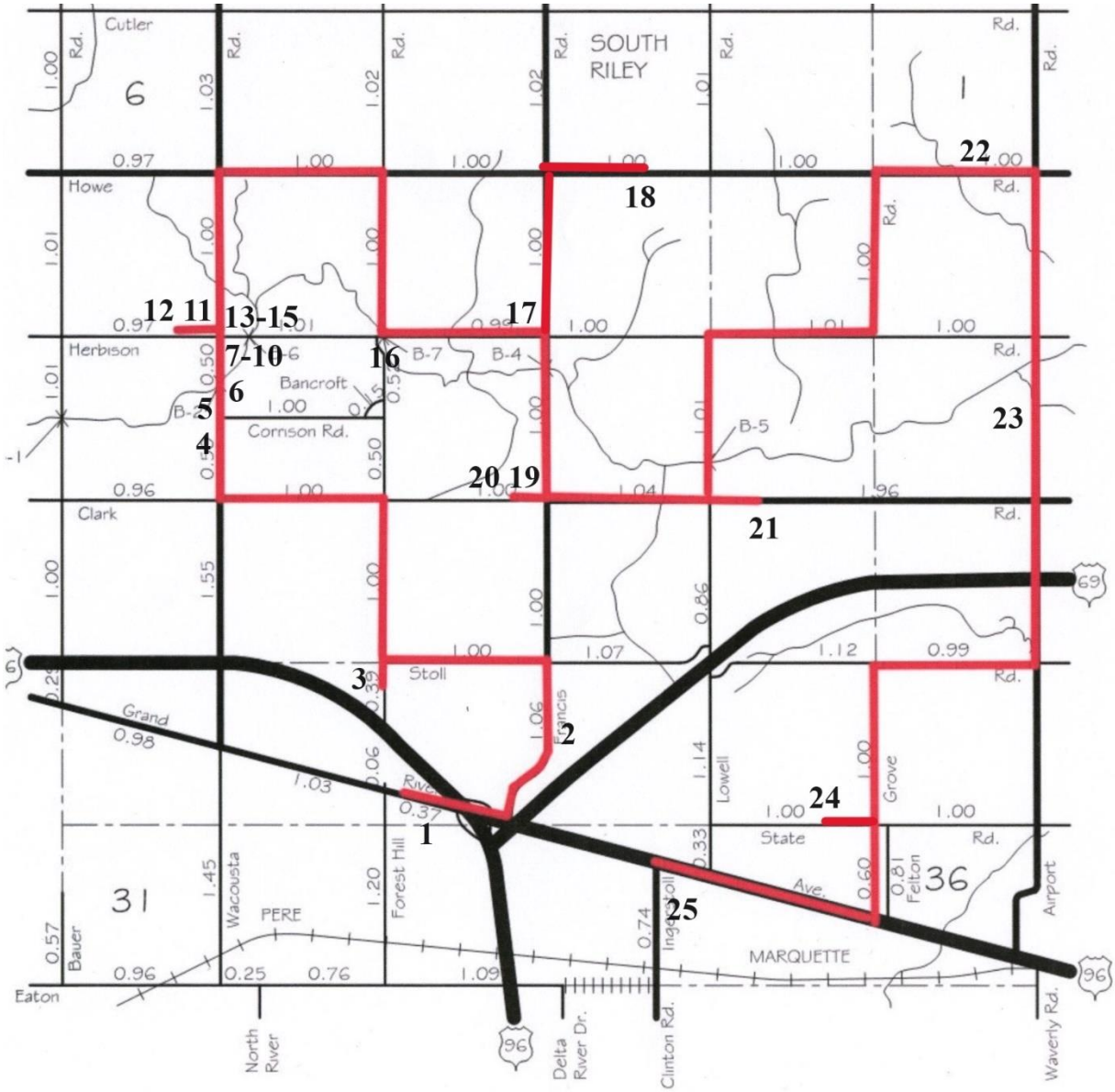
Watertown Township Tour

The village of Wacousta in Watertown Township was first called Waterloo when it was founded in 1837. As another post office in Michigan had the same name resulting in misdirected mail, the name was changed to Wacousta, supposedly after an Indian princess. In the early 1900's it had a bank, two churches, several retail stores, a foundry, a creamery, and two practicing doctors.

This tour begins and ends at the Francis Road exit off I-69 near the intersection with I-96.



1	**Old Starr School Building** 7974 W. Grand River Built of brick in 1886, this former one-room school has been repurposed as a storage building for a plumbing company. Go east on Grand River and turn left on Francis Road.
2	**Old Rosewood Inn** 15275 S. Francis Road This impressive Italianate style home features large porch with balcony above and large square cupola above the 2nd floor was built in 1870. Until recently it was used as a wedding and event venue called House of Promise and the Rosewood Inn Bed and Breakfast. Go north on Francis and turn left on Stoll and left on Forest Hill.
3	**Ainslie Farm** 15150 S. Forest Hill Road This was certified a centennial farm on September 8, 1977. Frederick W. and May B. Ainslie purchased the property September 12, 1877. Their first house and all of its contents including Christmas gifts was consumed in a fire caused by an overheated parlor stove in December of 1880. They built a 10-room house in 1903 for $2,000. In 1907 they enlarged the barn. Go north 1 mile on Forest Hill, west 1 mile on Clark. Turn right on Wacousta Road.
4	**Mattson-Jenks House** 13510 S. Wacousta Road This early American style house was built prior to 1870.
5	**Gloria Miller Looking Glass Valley Park** 13440 S. Wacousta Road This park's name is a tribute to one of the township's community leaders. Miller is a life-long river and land conservationist and experienced canoeist. The park features a canoe launch, picnic sites, and other recreational areas. Replacing the former ball diamond in the center of the park is the Jack Huntoon (1935-2018) Playground. Its name honors a lifelong Wacousta resident who annually maintained an ice-skating rink in the park and contributed many hours of his time facilitating baseball games and other local sports activities.
6	**Holiday Haven Girl Scout Camp** 13255 S. Wacousta Road This camp, affiliated with the Lansing Girl Scout Council, includes 15 wooded acres with a private island and two lodges.
7	**Old Candler Funeral Home** 13145 S. Wacousta Road Douglas E. Candler owned and operated the Candler Funeral Home in this building for 35 years from c1932-1967.
8	**Clayworks Pottery** 13121 S. Wacousta Road This is a cooperative of potters which also offers classes. Their building provides an art studio and a sales room.

9	**Ellis House** 13081 S. Wacousta Road This is one of the oldest in the county having been constructed in 1836. The Wacousta post office was located here at one time. It was previously known as the Cooley & Kraft House.
10	**Wacousta General Store** 13051 S. Wacousta Road The original building, which is part of this store, was situated on the banks of the Looking Glass River and was used as an Indian trading post in the early 1800's. The store at various times has provided a gas station, ice cream parlor, restaurant, post office, hardware store, garden center, meat market, video rental shop, and quite notably, a source of local news. The "Everything from Soup to Nuts" sign which was prominently mounted on the building's façade for many years is usually recalled by anyone who has ever driven through the area. Turn left on Herbison Road.
11	**Wacousta-DeWitt Masonic Hall** 9030 W. Herbison Road This two-story wooden building dates from about 1860. It was originally a hotel and tavern at a different location. Wacousta Masonic Lodge No. 359 was chartered in 1883. Fried fish lovers for miles around beat a path to its door for the monthly Wacousta Fish Fry.
12	**Wacousta Community United Methodist Church** 9180 W. Herbison Road The first church on this site, a wooden structure, was built in 1867. A stone building replaced it in 1915. Classrooms were added in 1960 and in 1980 the sanctuary was rebuilt. A new chapel was added in 2004. The congregation celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2016. Back track to Wacousta Road and turn left.
13	**Watertown Charter Township Complex** 12803 S. Wacousta Road Three different Wacousta School (K-10) structures have stood here beginning in 1844. In 1987 an entirely new elementary school was built about half a mile south and west and the township took possession of this building for meeting and office facilities. After the township moved in, the bell and cupola from the Watertown Center School was removed and mounted at the entrance and dedicated as the "Watertown Heritage Bell." The building complex includes the Wallace F. Watt Community Center. Mr. Watt (1896-1985) retired from the Michigan Department of Social Services and Mental Health in 1966. He spent his life advocating for the welfare of children and seniors and was a veteran of WWI. He also was notably a life-long Boy Scout, having been a charter member of Vermont's Troop 1, the first Boy Scout Troop formed in America in 1909. [Some of his Scout memorability is at the Clinton County Historical Society Museum in St. Johns.]

14	**Wacousta Cemetery** 12803 S. Wacousta Road Initially known as the Riverside Cemetery, the earliest burial is that of Betsy Webber in 1850. There are markers here for 250 military veterans, including Henry Garlock, who fought in the War of 1812, and Robert G. Mason, founder of the Joseph Mason GAR Post #248. Fifty-eight markers are for Civil War veterans; however, three of these are for veterans who are actually buried in a national cemetery elsewhere. The GAR monument, which was restored in 2001 after a fundraising campaign, stands at the top of the hill in the old section. A monument to all veterans faces Wacousta Road at the front of the cemetery.
15	**Heritage Park** 12803 S. Wacousta Road Heritage Park is located on the Looking Glass River and provides a ballfield, canoe launch, walking trails, picnic facilities, and an artesian well. Go north to Howe road, turn right and in 1 mile turn right on Forest Hill Road.
16	**Old Murton Bridge** Herbison Road 1 mile east of Wacousta It was here on the evening of January 21, 1939, that the old iron bridge collapsed into the frozen river under the weight of a Michigan Produce Co. truck with a load of beer and eggs. The truck settled with the bridge deck down to the river bank before turning on its side. The two men in the truck from Carson City escaped with minor injuries. Go east on Herbison Road.
17	**Old Clark Schoolhouse** 11970 S. Francis Road The Clark School was established by 1851, but the construction date of this building was about 1900. After the school closed in the mid-1960's the building was converted into a private residence. If you would like to view the Ingalls house go north 1 mile and east ½ mile. If not go south 1 mile.
18	**Ingalls House** 6283 West Howe Road This house dates to 1859. The land was originally purchased in 1841 as an 80 acre parcel by John D. Ingalls. John transferred the deed to his sister when he and his three brothers joined the California Gold Rush in 1849. He was back home and reclaimed the land by July 1, 1856.
19	**Old Watertown Center School Building** 7080 W. Clark This 1917 brick building replaced the c1867 wood frame school. Today it has been converted into a private residence.
20	**Old Watertown Township Hall** Clark Road just west of the Old Watertown Center School A building used for township offices was located at this site as early as 1873. The current cinder block structure was built in 1907 and used until 1987 when the township hall was moved into the former Wacousta School buildings. Go east on Clark past Lowell Road.

21	**Schroeder House** 5501 W. Clark Road This brick house was built in 1870. Go back to Lowell Road and then go north 1 mile to Herbison, east 1 mile to Grove and north 1 mile to Howe and turn right.
22	**Centennial Farm Antiques** 4410 W. Howe Road This farm was originally owned by Henry and Elizabeth Henning who purchased it in 1890. The barn, which is used as an antique store, was built c1870 and was one of five chosen as a 2013 Barn of the Year by the Michigan Barn Preservation Network. Go east on Howe to Airport Road and turn right.
23	**Joseph House** 13660 Airport Road This house was built in 1855. Continue south on Airport Road to Stoll Road (4 way stop). Turn right and after 1 mile turn left on Grove Road. At State Road turn right.
24	**Old Grove School Building** 5200 W. State Road There has been a school at the intersection of Grove and State from the 1860's until 1958 when the one-room school was replaced by the building at 5200 W. State. It was annexed by the Waverly district in 1962. Back track to Grove and go south until you read Grand River. Turn right.
25	**Ingersoll Property** Grand River & Ingersoll Road Robert Hawley Ingersoll (1859-1928) grew up south of here just past the railroad tracks on Ingersoll Road. Robert became a millionaire at the turn of the century by manufacturing the Dollar Watch. Robert along with his brothers William and Charles worked on various other inventions and enterprises. They are credited with developing one of the first nation-wide sales catalogs.

This tour was developed by Myrna VanEpps