



From 1876 Erie County Atlas

Begin at the northeast corner of Main and Lake Streets.

**DUNCAN'S BLOCK(1)**, 2-8 E. Main. Archie Duncan, son of an early settler, built this block c. 1845. Its 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stories were occupied by the G.A.R. and later, the American Legion. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, countless persons had sodas at the ECOMA (Erie County Milk Assoc.) located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor with entrances on both Main and Lake Sts.

Head east down Main St., looking across the street.

**HAYNES HOUSE(2)**, 9-13 E. Main. From the time of the War of

1812, this site has been occupied by a saloon. The Haynes House, built in 1852, was destroyed in the Great Fire of August 1884. The fire began on the east side of S. Lake St., spreading across the street then north to Main St. engulfing the Haynes House and the west end of Main St. The next day found 2 families, 22 businesses and the Presbyterian congregation without housing. Rebuilt after the fire, this hotel once boasted an attached livery and free transportation to and from the railroad.

**WEBB BLOCK(3)**, 17-21 E. Main. Constructed in 1882 by J. Webb, a merchant, this building survived the Great Fire. Formerly the home of the U.S. Post Office and then the Texas Lunch on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and

the Odd Fellows Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, this building is now occupied by Lake Country Bike and Subway.

Cross Main St. at the traffic light and then Vine St. and continue east.

**Ralph Well's Ford dealership(A)** formerly occupied the location of the PNC Bank. Well's dealership was the first automotive franchise in North East. Cramer Motors then occupied the front part of the former two-story building, followed by the Western Auto operated by the Powers family. A bowling alley was located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

National City Bank occupies the location of **Wallin's Photography Studio(B)** which was preceded by "Hat Rack," a popular youth hangout during the 1940's.

Further east, the Northwest Bank occupies the former location of **D.L. Mackay's Dodge(C)** dealership, which was eventually supplanted by the **A&P grocery store** (housed in the same building). A&P was the first supermarket in North East.

Across the street on the spot now occupied by Crescent Hose Company, was the former location of **Blystone's Buick-Pontiac-GM(C)** which also sold farm machinery.

**MAIDEE OLSON HOUSE (4)& STOW & SONS INSURANCE(5)**, 51-55 E. Main St. Now the home of Grape Arbor Bed & Breakfast, these two Federal-style houses with Victorian appointments were built c.1832. No. 51 was the home of Maidee Olson who ran a kindergarten there in 1920's through the 1940's. No. 55 was the long time home of Stow & Sons Insurance Agency.

Reverse direction and continue back west along Main St. turning south at the driveway to Northwest Bank and continuing to East St.

**Buffalo & Lake Erie Traction Co. Freight House location(E)**. Directly across from the Northwest Bank rear entrance is the parking lot of the VFW. This was the location of the trolley company's freight house. The trolleys ran along Main St. with a switch that allowed them to go south on Vine St. and then to East St. Besides carrying passengers, the trolley company had a lucrative express business during its operation from 1901 to 1933.

Continue west on East St. and cross Vine St.

**TOWN HALL & CRESCENT HOSE CO.(6)**, 25 Vine St. Current home of the North East Historical Society and the North East Arts Council, this building was constructed in 1880 as the Borough's town hall. It has a various times housed the Borough offices, a jail cell, and on the first floor, a fire company. During the fire of 1884, citizens formed bucket brigades from the various wells and Baker's Creek seen just to the south of the old Borough Hall. After the fire, the Fuller Hose Co. and the Citizen's Hose Co. were formed. In 1889, the Anti-Saloon league brought charges against Citizen's Hose before the Borough Council, forcing the unit to disband. The same night, 16 ex-hose company members volunteered their services and formed Crescent Hose Co. No. 2.

Turn right onto Mechanics Alley just past Johnny B's restaurant. Mechanic's Alley was once home to the Borough's garage and a blacksmith shop. Continue down the alley.

**U.S. POST OFFICE(7)**, 38 S. Lake St. The lobby of this building is graced by a cast sculpture of a town crier reading the news to a crowd. This sculpture was created during the Great Depression by a WPA artist and originally hung in the building that is now the Borough Hall. The lobby is open 24 hours every day.

**LEGION/VFW HALL(8)**, 22-28 S. Lake St. Sporting the only turret in town, the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of this building first housed the American Legion and then the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Its southern portion is built over Baker's Creek.

Now turn right onto Lake St. Walk towards the center of town past buildings the housed numerous businesses during the last 125 years. Notice their ornate finials.

**BOGENSCHUTZ HOME FURNISHINGS(9)**, 18-20 S. Lake St. N. J. Bogenschutz founded his furniture business in 1878, near the railroad. In 1893, he built this grand store, proudly displaying his name in the top of the facade. The business stayed in the family for three generations. The building is now the home of Michael's Pizzeria & Restaurant.

Cross Lake St. at the traffic light and walk south on west side of Lake St.

**FIRST NATIONAL BANK(10)**, 17 S. Lake St. Built in 1893, this building's Greek Revival façade immediately marks it as a bank. Now home to Flip-Side Entertainment, this building served as a bank through the 1960's.

**MASONIC TEMPLE(11)**, 27 S. Lake St., Built c. 1892 as the Masonic Temple, the ground floor of this building housed Carnahan Bros. Clothing Store. Carnahan's was one of the largest clothing stores in the region with a factory in Jamestown, NY and several branch stores.

**NORTH EAST BREEZE/STAR(12)**, 35-37 S. Lake St. The northern part of this building was the original location of *The Star*, which began in 1869 and became *The Sun* in 1873. The Cushman brothers, publishers of *The Sun*, later built a new building on W. Main St., just east of the Presbyterian Church. W. H. Sandborn, who founded *The North East Breeze* in 1893, then used this building. The two newspapers were consolidated in 1928. The business also included 37 S. Lake, the former home of Canella's shoe repair. The building is now home to the News Journal and Dr. Mack's Chiropractic office.

**FRENCH'S STUDIO(13)**, 41 S. Lake. A. J. French's Photographic Studio sits over Baker's Creek, which you passed over on Vine St. In addition to flowing beneath the old Legion Hall across the street, the creek flows beneath a portion of the newspaper office and then under part of this building. In 1934, the creek flooded most of these commercial structures, leaving a foot of mud in their basements. French's studio has since been home to several optometrists, the latest being Dr. Griffith.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH(14)**, 43-55 S. Lake St. The Baptist congregation organized in 1858 and dedicated this Greek Revival building in 1860. On the National Register of Historic places, subsequent additions to the original building have kept the Greek Revival style.

Turn left into the Baptist Church's parking lot and walk around behind the buildings. Cross the bridge over Baker Run Creek and walk around the left side of the Presbyterian Church.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH EAST(15)**, 25 W. Main St. Part of the oldest religious body in Erie County, this congregation organized in 1801. Their frame building was in the center of Gibson Park and was eventually moved to Mill Street where it housed a cider mill. A grand brick church was built on the Main