

Walking Tour
Gilbertsville, New York
28 May, 2022

The village of Gilbert's Ville had its start before 1790 in an area about a mile east of here. Development spread rapidly with British settling primarily in the area west of the Butternut Creek and New England families on the east side. The west side began to take on a decidedly British air with early use of stone in many structures.

The developing western hamlet bracketed with small stone houses at each end, had three additional stone houses on the east side of the brook and three stone stores in the center of the hamlet. Soon these were joined by the stone schoolhouse in 1818 and the Gilbert family home in 1823.

A strong integrated economy and a turnpike through the hamlet contributed to enthusiastic commerce with the rest of the state. Advanced education, early on, became an important component of the community growth.

Fires have played an important role in changes to the village. Arson fires in 1866 and 1869 destroyed the central business district. A fire in 1874 destroyed most of the business district on eastern Marion Ave. Another arson fire in 1875 destroyed the Baptist church. In 1893, a fire again destroyed the Commercial St. business district. While local businessmen were in the process of rebuilding the district, a fire in February of 1895 destroyed the north and west side of the business district.

The first five structures in this tour were the only survivors on this street of the disastrous fire of 1874 which destroyed everything, between the stone arch bridge over the Dunderberg brook, to this place.

1. **"Locust Hill" C. 1800 & 1840's**
2. **Empire Hotel: before 1840**
3. **Dr. Lathrop's Office: 1825**
4. **Gilbert-Irwin House: C 1803**
5. **Stone and Batten Barn: C 1803**
6. **Stone House: prior to 1820 & 1874.**
7. **"Little Store:" after the fire of 1874**
8. **Brown Shingle building: after the fire of 1874**
9. **Studio Dionysus: 1927**
10. **Oliver Building, 1874.**

11. **Hardware Store: 1893**
12. **"Little House behind the Oliver Building." after fire of 1874**
13. **Stone House, before 1820 & 1874,**
14. **Masonic Temple, 1893, 1900 & 1920**
15. **Eagle Fire Engine & Hose Company, 1877**
16. **Presbyterian Church, 1882-1884**
17. **Stone Arch Bridge, 1855 and 1904**
18. **Overlook Park, 1907**
19. **Post Office, 1889 & 1950**
20. **The Gilbert Block, 1893.**
21. **The Lemley Building, 1886**
22. **Hoag-Hill House, C. 1820**
23. **White-shingle double house, C1840 +**
24. **Gilbertsville Free Library, 1818 & 1968**
25. **Taylor-Covey House, prior to 1830**
26. **Park House C 1820 and leather shop,**
27. **Town Hall – Grange, 1833**
28. **Stebbins' House, C1825**
29. **Fiddler's Green, 1830 Civil War Monument, 1888**
30. **Baptist Church, 1833, 1875**
31. **Blackman-Norton House, 1819 & after 1865**
32. **Square Store, 1866-67 and back wing before 1850, moved 1916**
33. **Major's Inn, 1822, 1896-97, 1905 & 1917**
34. **Academy, 1839-40**

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