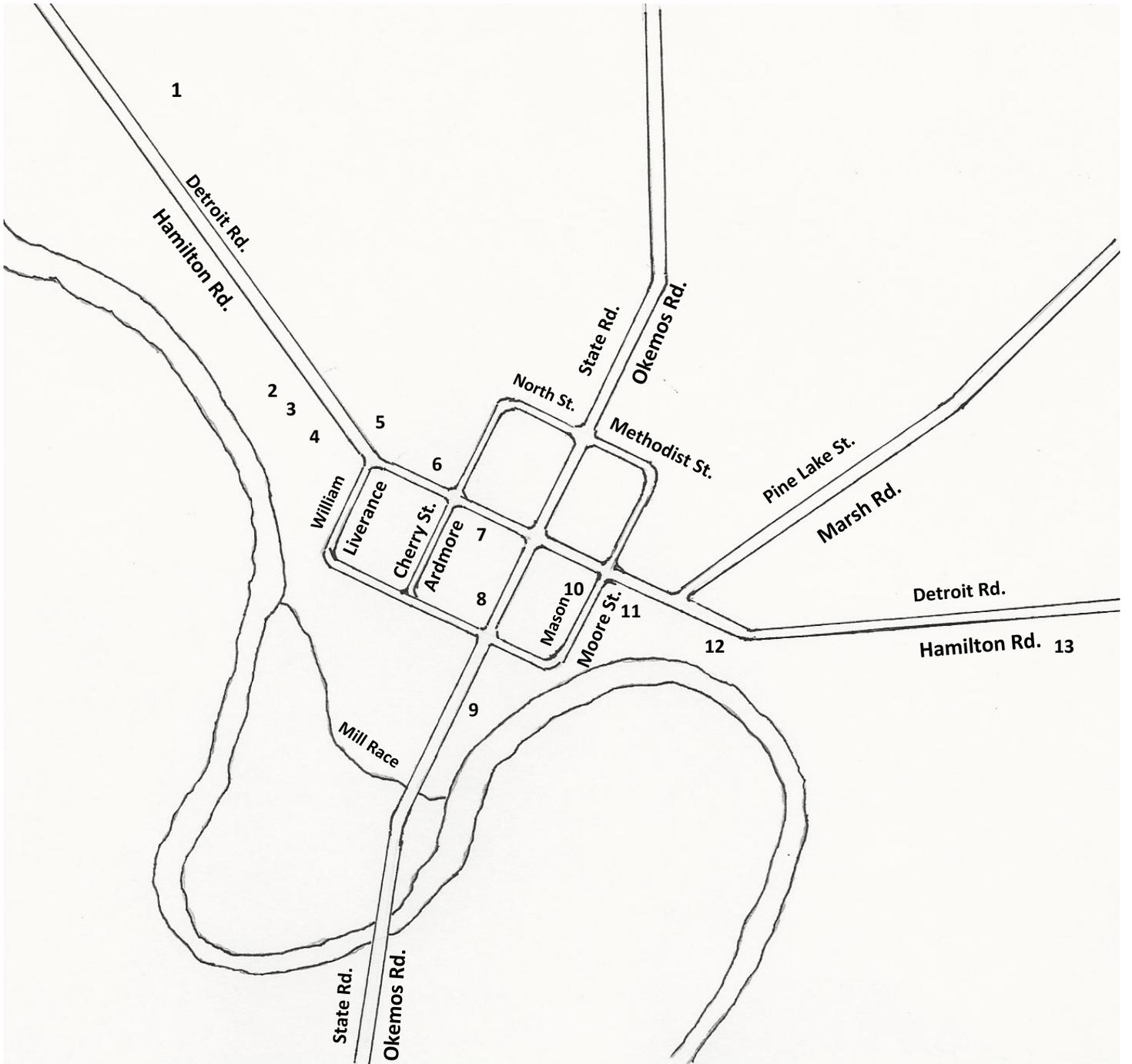


Old Okemos Tour
“Village of Hamilton”

Sunday, September 17

2:30 pm





“Westside of Okemos”



← House #1 Freeman Bray Farm, 2270 Hamilton

Pioneer Freeman Bray platted the southeast corner of his property in 1841 and named the future village Hamilton.

He built his farm house c. 1856. “Mr. Bray...was proprietor of the Village, as first known as Hamilton, and has always been a prominent citizen. He kept a hotel for several years in the village, was a postmaster for a considerable period, and removed to his present location in 1856. His farm is a good one, and he has fine improvements. The farm now [in 1880] contains something over 160 acres, including an eighty-acre lot purchased about 1855 by his wife while he was absent in California.” - From Durant’s *History of Eaton and Ingham Counties, 1880.a*

House #2 Morton/Sower House, 2217 Hamilton →

Built before 1874, by R. Morton, this two story wooden house was owned by Mr. Chris Sower in 1974.



← House #3 Thurber/McKane House, 2205 Hamilton

Built before 1859, this house was originally located at 2195 Hamilton and was owned by Okemos merchant Collins Thurber. The house was moved west to its current location shortly after 1899. James Wever purchased the property in 1909 and his daughter, Mrs. McKane lived here in 1974.

House #4 Holtz/Taylor House, 2195 Hamilton →

Built c 1900, this house has ties to the George VanAtta family. Their daughter, Octavia, married John Holtz who also built the house that was moved to 2215 Hamilton. Their daughter, Leota Taylor lived in the house in the 1970s.



Buildings in the Growing Village



← House #5 Dr. Parks/DeLind House, 2188 Hamilton

This house was built between 1877-1882. The property contained 1/2 acre when John B. Park purchased the land from Freeman Bray in 1877. Park was a doctor who built the house and practiced medicine in this building. "...Dr. Park constructed his front office in such a manner that he could look out the door and down the street to the center of the Village..." In 1916, Dr. Park sold this house and built another which was known as the Breckenfeld house. Long-time Okemos residents, the DeLind's owned this house for over 50 years.

- From the *Report of the Meridian Township Historic District Study Committee, 1972*

House #6 I.O.O.F Hall, 2160 Hamilton →

The property was part of the Freeman Bray property until 1853 when it was owned by E.L. Morse. The property was purchased in 1855 by Ebenezer Walker.

The building that was originally on this property was the first general store in Okemos, the "Walker's General Store". That building was replaced in 1904 with the meeting hall for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.). Prior to that, the fraternal organization met in the second floor of the brick store at the corner of Hamilton and Marsh (which has since been moved to the Meridian Historical Village).



← House #7 The "Sparrow's Nest", 2149 Hamilton

This property was purchased in 1853 by Jacob Thompson and the house was built about 1854. This building is one of (if not the) earliest house built in Okemos. The building pre-dates the Freeman Bray farm house, which was built in 1856.

The building has been used as rental property for the past several years.

“Central Okemos”

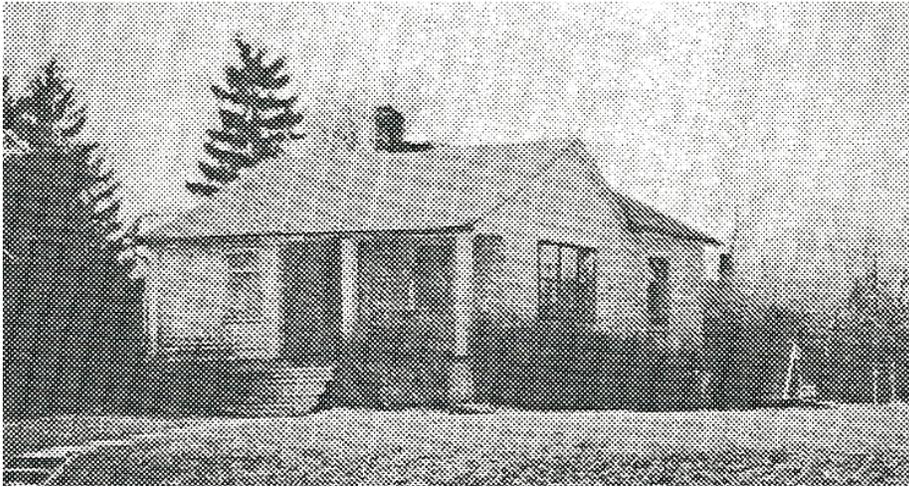


← House #8 Ederly House, 4633 Okemos Rd.

Yes, the house is still here. Although the vegetation has grown over the years along the side abutting to Okemos Road, presumably to shield the house from the sounds of traffic.

The land was sold to Eri Prince, a Presbyterian minister, in 1832, making this the **first land sold in Ingham County**. By 1855, Americus V. Ederly owned the property. Ederly was a cabinet maker and, because he also built coffins upon request, he was listed as an “undertaker”. Local lore suggests this is one of the earliest frame houses in the village.

And, what did the house look like prior to being “hidden” from the public?



House #9 Walker House, 4622 Okemos Rd. →

This house was built in 1856 by Ebenezer Walker of Rochester, NY. Walker became one of the leading men of the village and turned an old saw mill into a steam saw and grist mill. The first telephone service was in this house. The stones for the old dam for the mill run can still be seen in the river just south of the building.



“Eastside of Okemos”



← **House #10 Old Baptist Church, 4646 Moore St.**

In 1867, “eleven members of a Lansing Baptist Church met to organize a church.” The church was built in 1868, “...at an expense of about \$2400. In 1870, Mr. G.C. Young presented the [Baptist] society with an 800 pound bell... The membership was fifteen in 1880. The congregation moved to its present location in 1957 and the building is now used for apartments.

- Source: *Report of the Meridian Township Historic District Study Committee, 1972*

House #11 Will Turner House, 2099 Hamilton Rd. →

This house was built before 1874 by Will Turner (son of William H. Turner who built the brick Heathman-Herre house). Turner lived in the original two-story upright portion of the building until his death in 1924. Subsequent owners added two bedrooms upstairs with a porch below, and a den and upstairs studio.



← **House #12 Sturges House, 2075 Hamilton Rd.**

This house was built after the Civil War by James A. Hamilton. The house was sold to Wallace A. Sturges in 1889 for \$680. During a major renovation in 1917, “a cannon ball from the Civil War [was] recovered from the [cellar] wall.” The house is currently hidden from view by a large fence abutting the sidewalk along Hamilton Rd.

House #13 Burley House, 2031 Hamilton Rd. →

“Built about 1885, this is an interesting vintage house of the late nineteenth century.” The “...house was built by a Mr. Wilson and soon sold to a widow woman, Mrs. Mary Chapin, who made a living for herself and children, in part at least, by weaving carpets.” The house had fallen into disrepair about fifteen years ago and new owners renovated the house, including a new roof to remove the moss growing along the roof.

