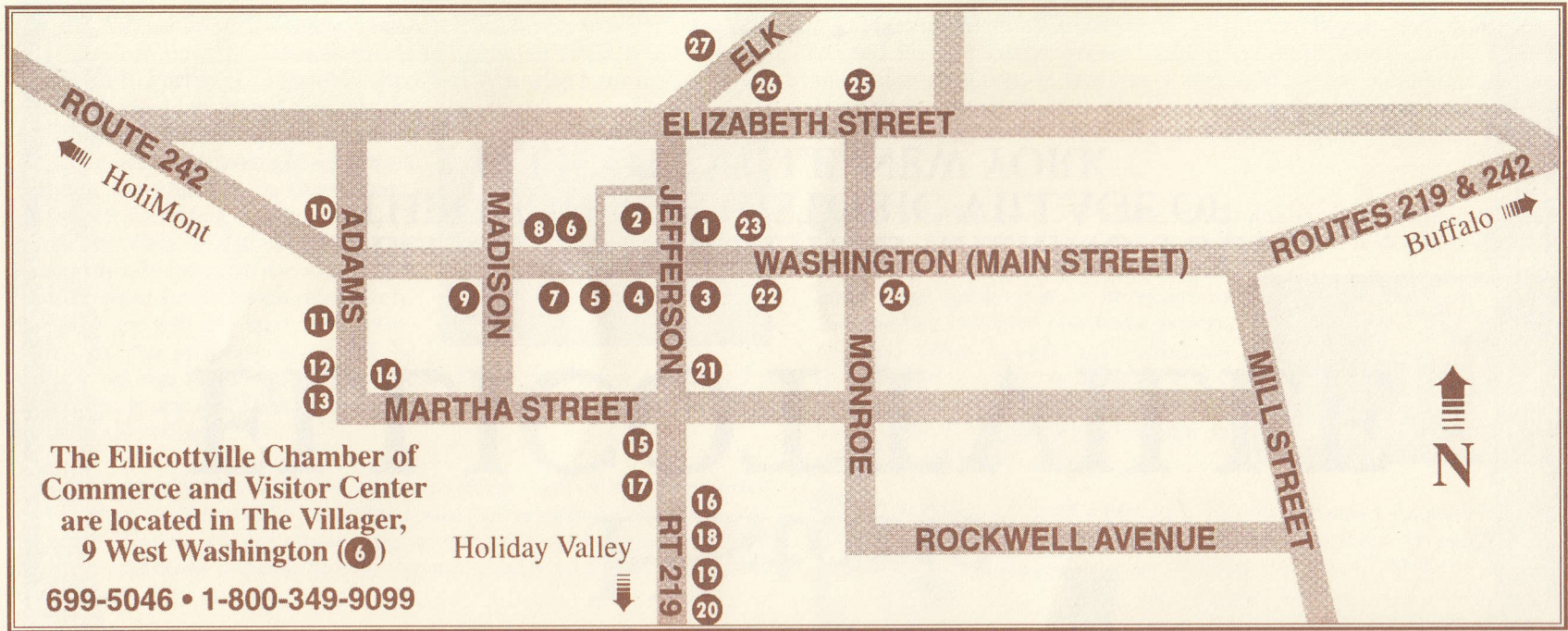




Historic ELLICOTTVILLE

A SELF-GUIDED HERITAGE WALKING TOUR
THROUGH THE HISTORIC VILLAGE OF
ELLICOTTVILLE, NEW YORK





Welcome to Ellicottville, a progressive village that cherishes its past.

Cattaraugus County was formed in 1808 and the present village site was chosen as the county seat for its geographical location at the center of the county. A few years later the Holland Land Company laid out the streets with a central public square. Each quadrant of the square was designated for public use. Ellicottville was named to honor the land company's chief surveyor and resident land-agent, Joseph Ellicott.

After the county seat was removed to Little Valley in 1868, the logging and wood products industries became the driving force in the local economy and have remained the primary financial base of the community since the 1880s. The other major economy is the skiing industry that began modestly in the 1940s. Holiday Valley (1957) and HoliMont (1864) now attract an average 650,000 visitors annually.

The community has dedicated itself to preserving its historic architecture and unique character. In 1991, the Ellicottville Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic places. The development of the village from a 19th century frontier town and county seat, to an industrial mill town, to its current stage as a major center for tourism and industry is reflected by its architecture and is revealed in this heritage walking tour.

Please respect the privacy of residents and enjoy the beautiful architecture from the sidewalk.

1 The Town Museum. As one of the four corners of the village square, this site has been the location of the County Clerk's office, a bank, a German Protestant church and a millinery shop. In 1894, a belfry was added and the building was used as a fire house for the



This guide funded through the generosity of

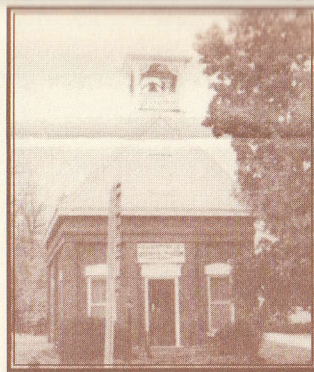
HOLIMONT

ELLICOTTVILLE, NEW YORK

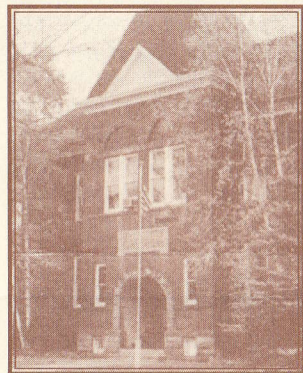
Skiing, Pure and Simple
www.holimont.com 716-699-2320
Open To Non-Members Monday-Friday

2 The Town Hall. Constructed in 1829, replacing a log court house and jail, this impressive Federal Period building served as the center of Cattaraugus County government. In 1868, the county seat was transferred to Little Valley because Ellicottville lacked railroad service. The Town of Ellicottville purchased the building to use as the Town Hall. Until the turn of

1 The Town Museum. As one of the four corners of the village square, this site has been the location of the County Clerk's office, a bank, a German Protestant church and a millinery shop. In 1894, a belfry was added and the brick structure became a fire house for the volunteer fire department. At the sound of the alarm bell school boys ran across the street from the school and pulled the hand drawn pumper to the fire, often arriving at the scene before the firemen. Since then this structure had served as a Home Economics classroom, the public library, and now the Town Museum.



3 The School House (1887 Building). This is third school building to stand on the square. Constructed in 1887-88, the current building stands on the foundation stones taken from the old county jail. It is a handsome example of Romanesque Revival architecture, the only civic structure in the village built in this style. Notable features include the rounded archway over the recessed front entrance and the rusticated stone detailing around the windows and doorways. The school belfry was removed when the rear portion was added between 1928-1930. After it ceased to function as a school in 1978, concerned citizens avoided



the potential demolition of this important landmark by purchasing the building. It housed the Ellicottville Public Library until 2006, and still holds office and rental spaces.

Washington Street. Washington Street is the old Chautauqua Road, an early thoroughfare that linked the county seats of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties. Homes on West Washington Street were built by land agents, bankers, and lawyers, reflecting the period when Ellicottville was the seat of county government.

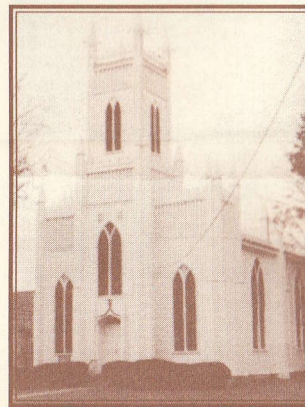
5 8 West Washington (Leonard-Ellis-Harrison Residence.) This Federal Period building, constructed in 1817, is the oldest frame house in Ellicottville. It was built by Baker Leonard for the Holland Land Company as an Inn for the convenience of prospective land purchasers. After it was rejected because of its high cost, Leonard retained the structure, which became a tavern, trading post, and residence. Before the county buildings were erected on the village square, the Leonard house also served as the county court house. Much of Ellicottville's early history was recorded here. The property has remained in the same family line throughout its entire existence.



2 The Town Hall. Constructed in 1829, replacing a log court house and jail, this impressive Federal Period building served as the center of Cattaraugus County government. In 1868, the county seat was transferred to Little Valley because Ellicottville lacked railroad service. The Town of Ellicottville purchased the building to use as the Town Hall. Until the turn of the century, plays, concerts, lectures and other forms of entertainment were held on a stage installed on the second floor. A fire heavily damaged the building in 1969. Saved from demolition by a determined group of citizens, the exterior was restored to its original appearance and the fire-gutted interior was fully remodeled. It is now the center of both Town and Village governments.



4 Saint John's Episcopal Church. Constructed in 1837, this is an excellent example of early Gothic Revival church architecture, uncommon in this region. Emulating Gothic churches of Europe, elements of the style include the central projecting tower crowned by finials, pointed windows, and tall wooden buttresses, all intended to direct the eye upward. The church exterior is virtually unchanged. An unusual feature of the church interior is the lack of a center aisle - in its place are two side aisles. The bell (named Gabriel and purchased by subscription for \$125) was cast in Malaga, Spain in 1788. It was transported up the Hudson River through the Erie Canal to Buffalo before arriving here in 1838 in an ox-drawn wagon.



6 9 West Washington (The Villager). This building was constructed in 1822 by the Holland Land Company for its Cattaraugus County subagent, Stanley N. Clarke. By 1836, the land company had sold off its land holdings to other companies and had left the village. Clarke remained in Ellicottville as agent for a new land company, the Farmers Loan & Trust. A latticed walkway originally connected the house to the land office from a doorway on the west side of the structure. The entrance was redesigned to face Washington Street when the Classical Revival style portico, featuring three-story wooden columns, was added in 1909. Concerned area residents saved the building from demolition after a fire seriously damaged the structure in 1973. It now houses offices, apartments and the Chamber of Commerce office.

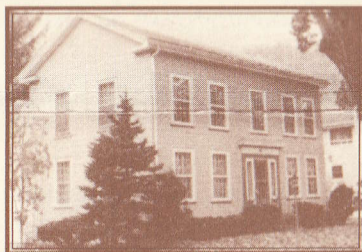


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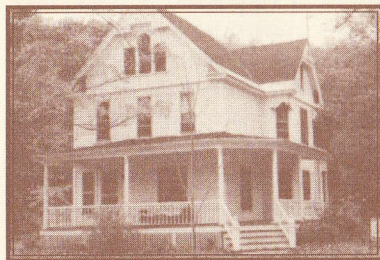
- 7** **12 West Washington.** James Cotter, who came from Ireland and settled in Ellicottville in 1858, built the house in 1888. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention that nominated Horace Greeley for President. The dwelling has elements of the Second Empire style, designed to emulate French architecture of the time. The Second Empire Style can be seen in the two-story square tower with a mansard roof crowned by a decorative iron balustrade.



- 9** **18 West Washington.** Charles Galloway, local blacksmith and harness maker, constructed this house in 1837, the only Georgian style residence in the village. Georgian architecture was popular in America from 1700 into the early 1800s. Brought over from England and based on formal Italian Renaissance notions of symmetry and Classicism, it was one of the first "fashionable" styles of architecture built for the increasingly affluent colonial American society. Features of the Georgian style seen in this dwelling include its side gable form with center chimney, the symmetrical five-bay facade with its central entrance, and the twelve-over-twelve windows. Of note are the window panes that were hand-drawn locally.



- 11** **15 Adams.** This house was constructed in 1907 for Joshua Pettit, who served with the 154th Ambulance Corps in the Civil War. The house is a good example of Queen Anne style architecture that was extremely popular during the last decade of the 19th century and in the early 20th century. Features of the Queen Anne style are seen in its asymmetrical plan, wrap-around porch, Palladian window in the front gable, and decorative wood shingles at the gable ends of the house. Hemlock used in the construction came from East Otto by oxen at a cost of \$8.00 per 1,000 feet.



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- 8** **15 West Washington (Laidlaw Residence).** The center section of this significant house was constructed in 1846 as a land office for William Samuel Johnson, a lawyer and land agent. The east portion was added as a residence in 1851, along with another addition attached to west side of the office that served as a classroom for the Johnson children. The front portico is supported by chestnut tree trunks. Tree branches form the lattice within the gable ends. These decorative features, possibly dating to the late 19th century, give the house an unusual rusticated appearance. The interior, including a walk-in vault, remains much as originally built. Since 1875, three generations of the Laidlaw family have owned the building, which continued to be a law office until 1977. The barn behind the house was added in 1886.



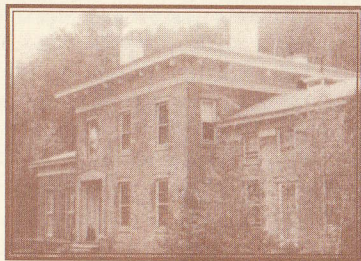
- 10** **25 West Washington.** This house was built by Delos Sill, a local newspaper publisher who was a leader in the Whig party and intimate friend of Millard Fillmore. The house, built circa 1850, has a traditional temple front Greek Revival style appearance. This style of architecture came into vogue in the early 19th century as post-Colonial America searched for a new architectural language to express the democratic ideals of the infant Republic, replacing Old World English precedents. The dwelling, with its pedimented portico and side wings, is unique among the variety of Greek Revival style residences in the village.



- 12** **23 Adams.** This is a good example of an American Four Square, which was a building form and style derived from the Prairie School of architecture during the early 20th century. Called a "Four Square" for its square plan (four rooms on each floor), other common features of the style are its low pitched hip roof and roof dormer, the wide eave overhangs, and the full-width hip roof porch, all which emphasize the horizontal lines of the house. Built circa 1910, it is representative of construction in Ellicottville during the early 20th century.



13 25 Adams (Smith-Parker House). This house was built in 1843 by Theodore Smith, a banker and land agent. In 1900, it was owned by David B. Parker, a Colonel in the Civil War who later held a major post with the U.S. Postal service during President Grant's administration. It is the grandest example of Greek Revival architecture in the village, unusual for its brick construction. Of particular note is the doorway with finely chiseled sandstone surrounds. The original horse block and hitching post are still in place. Two fountains on the property were fed by natural springs from behind the house. Since the home contained a ball room it was a center for many social events held during the early years of the village.



Jefferson Street. Jefferson Street is illustrative of the emergence of industry in the village after the county government left the community. Houses on this street date to the mid- and late-nineteenth century and were constructed by the merchants and industrialists of the village.

16 34 Jefferson. A lawyer and Surrogate Court judge, Allen D. Scott built this house circa 1840. He worked tirelessly to bring the Rochester & State Line Railroad through Ellicottville, succeeding in 1877. The importance of a railway can not be overestimated. The



Cattaraugus Union, a local newspaper, reported that a locomotive, "Salamanca", arrived on Thursday last, August 27, 1877, the greatest event in the history of the village..." An engine on the line was named after Scott in recognition of his efforts. The dwelling is another variation of vernacular Greek Revival architecture of the early 19th century. It has a side-

gable form with a symmetrical front facade, wide frieze band, and "lie on your stomach windows" on the second story.

18 44 Jefferson. A hatter and hotel proprietor, George Senear built this house in 1835. (His hotel stood on the present site of M&T Bank.) It is a modest example of Greek Revival style architecture constructed early in Ellicottville's history. It has a plain front gable form, wide frieze band, and simple window surrounds, all of which are characteristic of vernacular Greek Revival architecture of the period. The porch is most likely a later 19th century addition.



Martha Street. With its well maintained homes and nicely landscaped lawns Martha Street looks like "small town U.S.A." and is made for strolling. It features a fine collection of nineteenth and twentieth century homes. The Zion Community Evangelical Church, where services were conducted in German until 1909, was built in 1892.

14 49 Martha. Like 23 Adams, this house is characteristic of architecture of the early 20th century in the village. It displays elements of the Craftsman style, including its large front gable that is mirrored in the smaller gable of the front porch, exposed rafter boards, and windows that feature three vertical lights in the upper sash over a single light in the lower sash. It is one of the few stucco sided houses in the village.



15 27 Jefferson (Vedder House). This house was a summer home of Commodore Perry Vedder, a local resident who was born in a log cabin. Vedder rose from Private to Lt. Colonel during three years of service in the Civil War, after which he was active in many business enterprises in New York City. Built circa 1880 and designed to emulate Italian Villa architecture, the Vedder House would have been at the height of architectural fashion. In spite of extensive 20th century alterations,



its Italiante features are still seen in the projecting center tower, wide overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets, and the ornate window crowns.

17 35 Jefferson (Weller House). William Weller, a co-owner of the Fitzpatrick & Weller lumber company, built this home in 1908 at a cost of \$8000. It is another good example of Queen Anne architecture. Characteristics of the Queen Anne style are its asymmetrical building plan, projecting second story front bay, decorative brickwork, patterned shingles in the gable ends, and wrap around porch. Of particular interest is the porch, which features wooden columns capped by Ionic capitals. Such classically inspired porches, an early 20th century addition to many older homes, are common in Ellicottville.



19 48 Jefferson (Fitzpatrick House). This house was built in 1895 by a local shop owner and purchased in 1905 by Frank Fitzpatrick, co-owner of Fitzpatrick & Weller lumber company. It is a good example of Italiante architecture, characterized by its hip roof, wide overhanging eaves, and boxy shape.



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20 52 Jefferson (Reynolds House). In 1856, two small houses stood on this lot. Between 1860-65 Stephen McCoy, a local merchant, joined them at a right angle and added the three-story main block of the current house. This is an excellent example of late Greek Revival architecture in Ellicottville. Notable features include the tall pilasters that frame the pedimented main block of the house, the wide frieze band that encircles the building, and the elaborate entrance that features pilasters



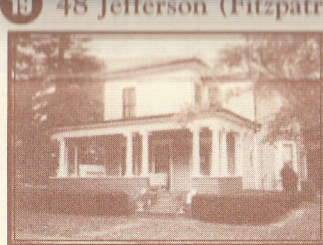
and a full entablature framing the doorway. Also of note is the frame carriage barn next to the house. The house has been in the Reynolds family since 1901.

Main Street. The commercial district on Washington Street is commonly referred to as "Main Street." In the early 19th century it was lined primarily by one and two story structures. In 1890, a devastating fire destroyed most of the original frame buildings on the north side of the street, which were replaced by the brick buildings you see today. The result is a visually cohesive block of brick commercial buildings with Victorian era detailing. Notable features include the decorative brick corbeling around windows and eave lines, and the projecting metal cornices. Also notable are the two story porches built over the sidewalks. The few frame buildings at the eastern end of Washington Street give a sense of the appearance of the downtown before the fire.



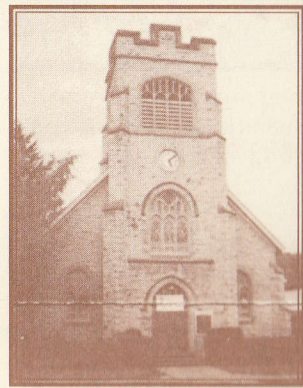
22 An unusual and early structure on Washington Street is the Brick Block (13-15 Washington Street). Constructed in 1852, it is the first condominium building in New York, and the structure for which the New York State condominium law was written.

23 Anchoring the northwest corner of the commercial district is the Ellicottville Inn. A hotel has been on this site since 1822. The present structure replaced the previous frame hotel that was destroyed by the 1890 fire. Upon completion of the new brick structure, the owner declared, "This is the finest hotel in



This house was built in 1897 by a local shop owner and purchased in 1905 by Frank Fitzpatrick, co-owner of Fitzpatrick & Weller lumber company. It is a good example of Italianate architecture, characterized by its hip roof, wide overhanging eaves, and boxy shape. The Classical Revival porch was added to the house in the early 20th century.

21 Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church. Constructed in 1909, this is an excellent example of early 20th century Gothic Revival style church architecture. Designed to reflect a romantic vision of medieval European architecture, notable features include its rusticated stone construction, the projecting castellated tower, stone buttresses, and pointed stain glass windows. (This church gives a much different impression than St. John's Episcopal Church, which is an example of early Gothic Revival styles architecture, built almost 100 years earlier.) Also notable is the Tudor Revival style parish house located just to the south of the church.



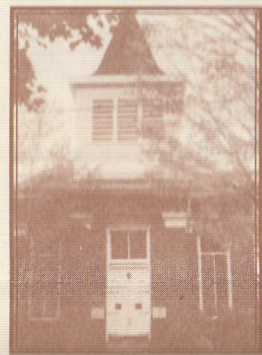
25 43 Elizabeth (Drown House). Late in 1839 Truman R. Coleman, a banker and land agent, purchased land on Elizabeth Street from the



Devereaux Land Company. The house was probably built in 1840. Coleman's life was one of rags to riches. At age 13, he was supporting himself and materially assisting his family. When he was 19, he came to Ellicottville to manage a general store, which he purchased a few years later.

After he sold the business, he became a banker and land agent. With its second story monitor roof, this house is one of the most unusual Greek Revival styles houses in Ellicottville. Of particular note is the elaborate entrance with Classically inspired columns and full entablature. It has been in the Drown family since 1943.

26 United Church of Ellicottville. In 1829, a small group of people established a Presbyterian church, holding services in the Court House until a structure was erected on Monroe Street. The present church, built with locally produced bricks in 1852, had a round belfry ringed by Grecian columns and a spire that rose approximately 80 feet high. The spire and belfry, damaged by lightning in 1890, were replaced by the current square tower in 1902. In 1978, the Methodist and Presbyterian churches merged to become the United



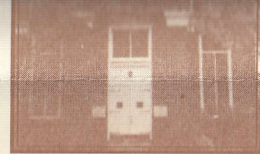


the previous frame hotel that was destroyed by the 1890 fire. Upon completion of the new brick structure, the owner declared, "This is the finest hotel in western New York, with electric lights and stream heat."

24 The Market Place (1885) at the intersection of Main and Monroe Streets was constructed for Alexander Bird and was originally known as the Bird Block. Bird was a colorful citizen with an outstanding military record in the Civil War.



rose approximately 80 feet high. The spire and belfry, damaged by lightning in 1890, were replaced by the current square tower in 1902. In 1978, the Methodist and Presbyterian churches merged to become the United Church of Ellicottville.



27 2 Elk (Fox-Law-Watson House). This house, built by T.J. Williams in 1835, is a good example of early Ellicottville architecture.



It has an overall Greek Revival appearance, but shows later 19th century stylistic updates, such as the Gothic Revival style window hoods and Queen Anne porch. Of note is the ornate wrought iron fence around the property. Chauncy J. Fox, an early pioneer, purchased the house in 1855.

He and his wife, Hannah — a daughter of Ellicottville's first settler, Grove Hurlburt — lived here for all their lives.

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