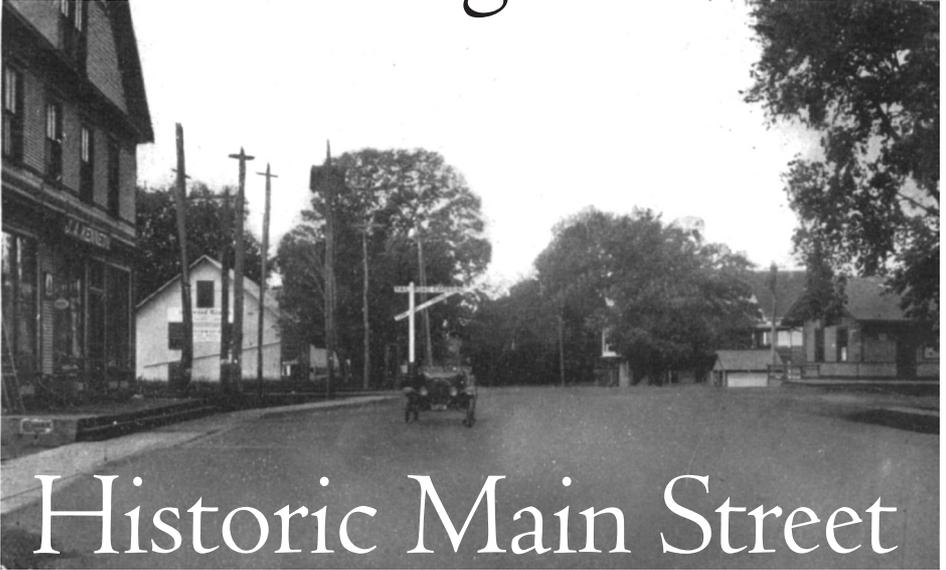


*The Milton Historical Society  
and Milton Recreation Department present*

# A Walking Tour of



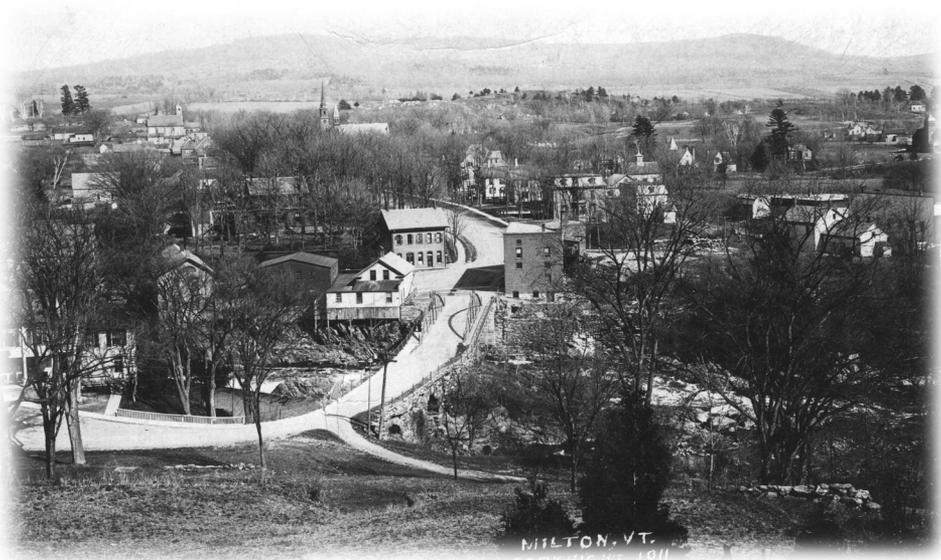
# Historic Main Street

Saturday, October 3, 2020  
10 am - 5 pm



Self-Guided Tour

*Follow numbered signs on Main Street*



# Historic Main Street

*The Hub of Milton's Early Social & Business Life*

Chartered in 1763, Milton was rich in natural resources which included seven waterfalls and valuable white pine forests. Judge Noah Smith, one of Vermont's first lawyers, acquired six original rights of land in Milton, and at one time was owner of most of lot 66, known as Milton Falls (later called Milton Village). In 1789, Smith donated the land for Main Street, Milton's first East-West street described as extending from the River Bank to the intersection of North and East Roads and Westford Hill. He also gave adjoining land for the first Congregational Church on the present site of the original Fire Station, and an acre of land for the Village Cemetery.

For the first fifty years, lumbering brought prosperity to the settlements of Checkerberry and West Milton on the banks of the Lamoille River. There were only ten homes located on Main Street in 1840. In the mid-1800s, with the construction of the railroad and the depletion of the forests, Milton Falls and Main Street became the center of activity.

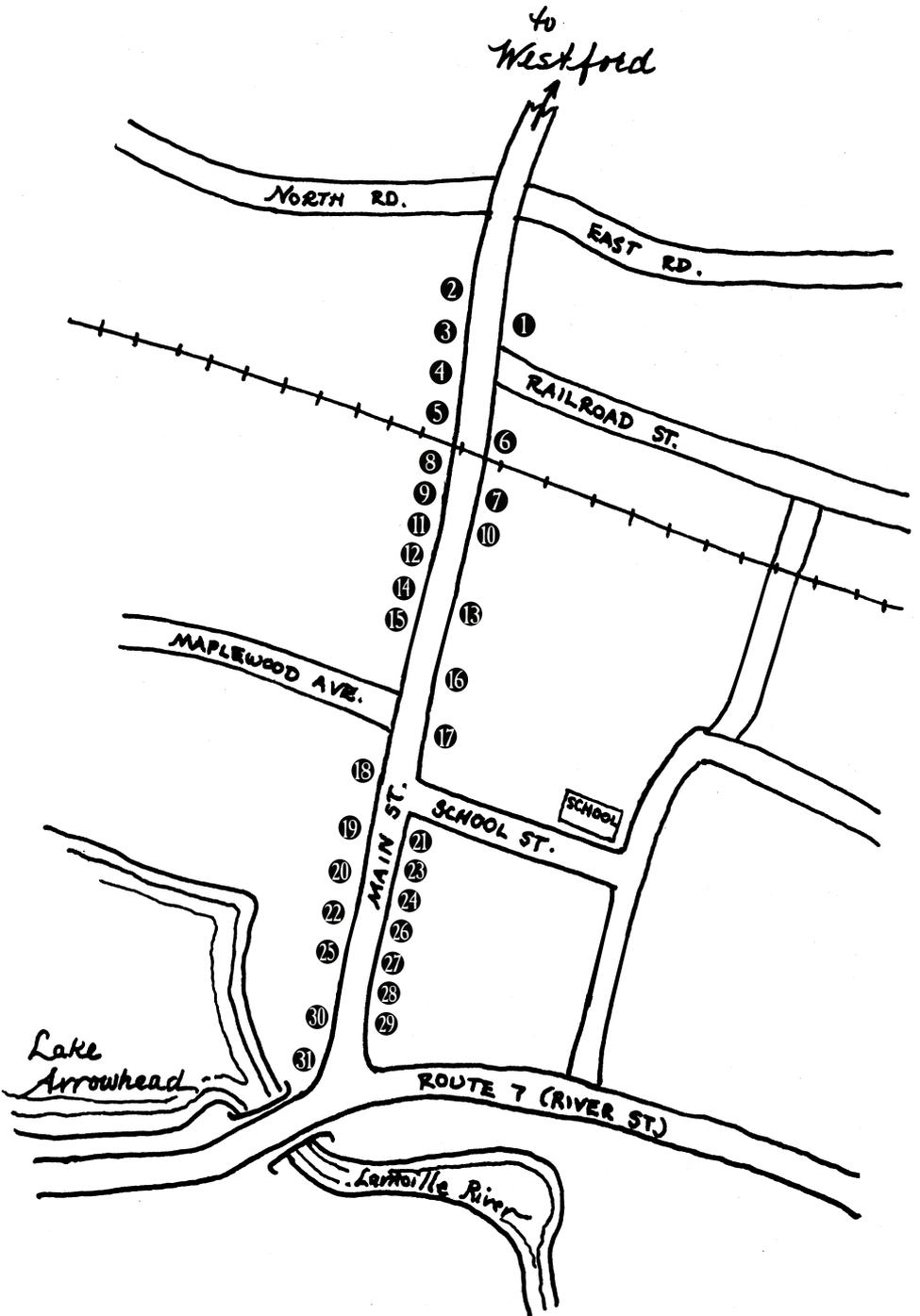
For over 100 years, the Main Street area - with the Railroad Depot, Milton Cooperative Creamery on Railroad Street, and the first Milton Graded School (grades 1-12) on School Street - was the hub of business and social life in town. Two business districts, one on Upper Main Street near the railroad depot and the other on Lower Main Street at the intersection of Main and River Streets, provided needed services and goods for this small dairying community. Many of the River Street businesses were destroyed by fire or in the Great Flood of 1927.

Due to limited space and the large number of beautiful historic homes on Main Street, we are noting selected properties. The focus of the tour is to show the homes and businesses of the doctors, lawyers, librarian, undertaker, dressmakers, town officers, etc. and their contribution to the history of this community. Enjoy your visit down Historic Main Street and the Village Cemetery, the resting place of many of our forefathers and early settlers.

This program provides an outline of the buildings along the Tour. More information, pictures and artifacts are available at the Milton Historical Museum on School Street, closed to visitors in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and planned for reopening in 2021 on Saturdays 10 - 2, May - October or by appointment. Reach out with questions at any time at [miltonhistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:miltonhistorical@yahoo.com), on the Milton Historical Society Facebook page, or by calling 802-893-1604, and please consider joining the Society with your membership.



# Walking Tour Route





1. In 1854 Elisha Ashley Jr. built this original nine room farmhouse. Known as the Village Farm, three different owners have operated the farm and distributed milk locally. The Harold Cadreact family has owned it since 1954. Two barns burned in a 1971 fire.

- 89 Main Street -



2. In 1913 Burr D. Martin opened a Funeral Home at this site. The building behind the house was used for services and storage. He retired in 1941 after 27 years of undertaking.

- 90 Main Street -





3. One of the earliest Main Street homes is the Wood-Wagner house, built around 1840. In the mid-1800s N.S. Wood established the Wood Shoe Company in a small store west of the main house. He provided

families with footwear for over 50 years, and his son George ran the business for 20 more years in the 1900s. The property remains in the Wood-Wagner family today, owned by Brock and Karen Rouse.

- 88 Main Street -

4. Charles Proctor Sanderson (1824-1911) purchased this piece of land in 1870 from the Wood family. In 1898, Charles decided to build a retirement home on the property and hired Eugene Allen, a carpenter who built other houses in Milton, to build it.



The lumber was cut from the 1804 Sanderson farm in West Milton, where Charles was born and had spent most of his life. In 1899, he and his wife Sarah (both 75 years of age) retired from farming and moved into their new home, which stayed in the Sanderson family until 1978 when it was sold to Steve and Kathy Gordon and then Ted and Kathleen Redman, who lived here for over 30 years until 2012, when it was purchased by current residents, the Dunn family. - 82 Main Street -



5. Site of the 26-room Austin Hotel, built in 1879. In the early 1900s it was known as the Glenwood, C. Skeels as proprietor. A fire in 1938 destroyed the

original building, and a new apartment house called The Colonial was built, operating from 1939 to 2000. The current Main Street Townhouses were built in 2001. - 72 Main Street -



6. The Village Hall building was constructed in 1891 to replace one of Milton's earliest stores, H. Rankin & Cassius Pratt, which had burned in 1889. During the early 1900s general stores occupied the first floor, and dances and meetings were held in a large room on the top floor. It also housed Milton's Post Office from the 1950s-70s. - 69 Main Street -

7. In 1850 George Ashley built this two-story structure to provide living quarters for his family over his hardware store. The Zebbie Wagner family acquired the property in the late 1800s and for over seventy years operated one of the largest hardware stores in the area. Later known as the E.W. Miller Store, it closed in the 1970s. - 61 Main Street -





8. This is the site of the Village Railroad Depot, which operated from the 1850s until 1961. It was dismantled in 1973.

9. A.P. Comstock operated a general store here for many years in the late 1800s. Built by George Ashley, it housed several businesses through the mid-1900s.  
 - 60 Main Street -



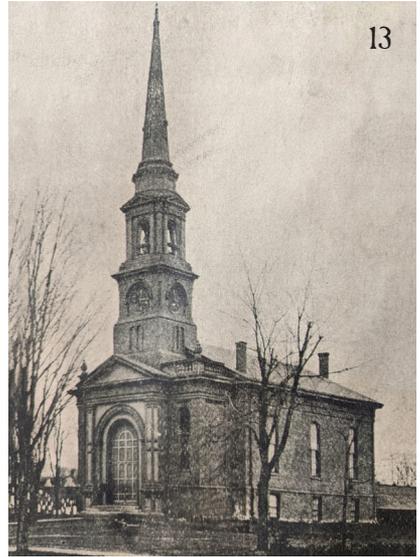
10. Milton's first Fire Station was built here in 1937 on the site of the original Congregational Church. It began use as Milton Rescue in 1966 when a larger fire station was built on Kienle Road in 1965, and housed ambulance service

starting in 1973. The building was sold to the Turner family in 2003 and second floor living space was added. The present Fire Station on Bombardier Road was dedicated in 2004. - 57 Main Street -



**11.** The first Methodist Church built in 1840 was replaced by a larger and more sound structure in 1870, which burned in 1878. The present building was dedicated as a church in 1885. In 1949 the Mason Lodge purchased the building. - *56 Main Street* -

**12.** This original brick Greek Revival was the home of druggist Nelson Fairchild. John McGrath, one of the founders and President of both the Milton Water District and the Milton Cooperative Dairy Association Inc., owned the property during the 1900s. - *52 Main Street* -



13

**13.** In 1804, the Congregational Church was the first to organize and built their church on the site of the original Fire Station (*see 10*). A larger building was completed on the present site, but burned in 1840 and was replaced in 1841. The present United Church was built in 1866. - *51 Main Street* -

**14.** Charles Ashley built this three-story 18-room Victorian house and added the double front porches in the 1920s. During the 1900s it was a multi-family dwelling owned by Art and Iris Mayville from 1946 to 2004, and is currently owned by the Gary family. - *46 Main Street* -



14

**15.** The Congregational Church parsonage was built in 1886. For over one hundred years this house was home to many of its ministers, as well as the current United Church. It was sold by the church around 2007. - *44 Main Street* -



**16.** The first St. Ann's Church was built in 1859. It was destroyed by fire in 1894, but a new church was rebuilt and dedicated the same year. In 1983 that building was deemed unsafe and torn down, and this new church of a more modern design was built. - *41 Main Street* -

**17.** Built around 1854, this large two-story house was built by William Sanderson with a cherry staircade rail and impressive woodwork. Throughout its history it has often been a two-family dwelling, owned by Charles and Mary Sphia Lovely from 1889-1929. In the 1900s it was known as the Landon and Kennedy House, and is the current Hecker residence. - *35 Main Street* -

**18.** This house built around 1900 became the home and office of Dr. Maurice Villemaire. He arrived in Milton in 1931 and retired in 1972, serving 41 years. Milton's first health center (the current Milton Family Community Center building) and its road, Villemaire Lane, were named after this revered physician. - *36 Main Street* -





**19.** Built in 1865, the three-story Austin House was one of three hotels located at Milton Falls. During the 1860s-1880s it was the center of activity with a large meeting and recreation hall. Later

it was a fraternal (Odd Fellows) hall, residence, movie theatre, multi-function community center (former home of MFCC), and apartments. Its detailed woodwork is a major feature. - 26 Main Street -

**20.** Built in the 1830s, this brick Greek Revival house offered Milton's first Catholic Mass in 1844. From 1875 to 1905 it was the home and office of Corbin Sanderson. Deborah Dolby and Peter Martin purchased and renovated the property, and opened the Sampler House B&B in 2003. - 22 Main Street -



**21.** Around 1900, Eugene Allen built this classic Victorian house for his wife, Adelaide. Adelaide lived in the home for fifty years. The building has primarily served as a private residence but it has also housed an apartment, a hair salon and a catering business. It is currently owned by the Farrell family. - 23 Main Street -



**22.** In 1948, Nancy Mears and her sister moved this house from West Milton to this location. In 1888 they willed the house to the Methodist Church to be used as a parsonage.  
- 18 Main Street -



22



**23.** This Federal style home was built by Hiram Sanderson in 1829; the date is inscribed in the granite keystone over the door. From 1907 to 1926 it was the home and office of Dr. Irving Coburn. Local merchant James Kennedy owned the property until the 1950s, and it has been owned by the Skapski family since 1956. - 21 Main Street -

**24.** Built circa 1820, this is one of the first homes on Main Street, owned early by Marion Ward. Known as the Brown House in the late 1800s, the second floor was the location of the Masonic Lodge. Throughout the years it has been a multi-family dwelling and provided space for small businesses. In 2007 it was carefully restored to its original appearance. - 17 Main Street -

25



**25.** This is the home of Dr. Daniel Onion, who moved from Checkerberry to Milton Falls around 1850. Originally a Colonial style house, it was transformed to

include Victorian features. The Powell family acquired the property in the late 1800s. Homer L. Powell was a lifelong resident of Milton (1887-1956), operating H.L. Powell's Store from 1912 until the 1930s. As one of Milton's lawyers and with his knowledge of town affairs, he was elected Town Clerk and Treasurer, offices he held from 1935 to 1956. This property was sold many times in the late 20th century, and was purchased and skillfully restored to its original appearance by current resident Craig Adams about a decade ago, including the reconstruction of the two-story front porch. - *14 Main Street* -

**26.** After earning his medical degree from UVM, Dr. Luman Holcombe moved to Milton in 1894 to start his medical practice. He hired local



carpenter Eugene Allen to build his 24-room Queen Ann-style home from 1900-1902. He retired in 1948 after fifty-four years of service. The Barsalow family purchased the property in 1978, and operated Barsalow Insurance here for many years. A tragic fire claimed the house in February 2020. - *15 Main Street* -

**27.** Marion Ward was a prominent landowner who built this large Colonial around 1850. Longtime merchant Frank Cormia and his family occupied the house from 1890 to 1920. The Ashley and Mayville families owned



it from the 1920s until 1951, when Dr. Wilton Covey purchased the house, and lived and held his doctor's practice here for 12 years. The Phillip Moeykens family purchased the home in the late 1960s and have lived here since. - *11 Main Street* -

**28.** After arriving in Milton in 1828, Lyman Burgess built this house as well as Burgess & Hill, one of the earliest stores, across the street and a little west of this residence. He served as Postmaster in his home from 1828 to 1840. Burgess & Hill was a prominent business during the 1800s. - *5 Main Street* -



**29.** The original Boardman House burned in a major 1878 fire, and was replaced by this large brick Italianate style house the following year. From 1889 to 1942 it provided housing for officials of the International Paper Pulp Mill and

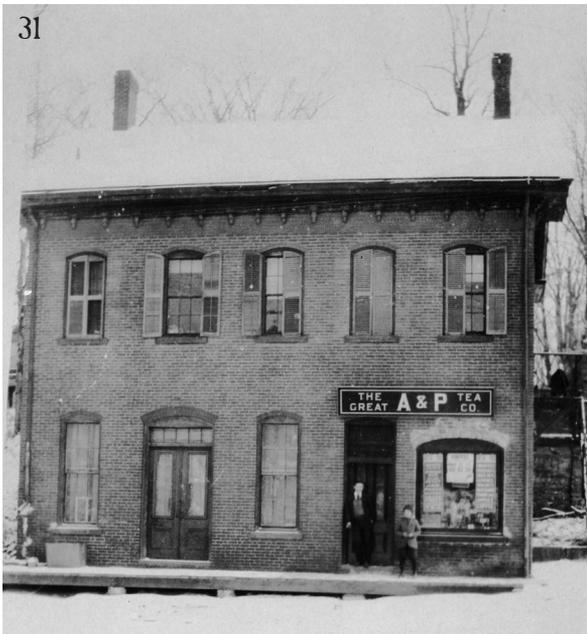
Public Electric Light Company. The building was also used by a portion of students displaced by the February 1943 high school fire, until the new school was built in 1945. IGA Store co-owner Leonard Branch bought the property in 1945 and the Branch family lived here for over fifty years. - *3 Main Street* -

30. Joseph Clark, Milton's most important benefactor, came to Milton at the age of twenty. He made a fortune in lumbering, real estate and the Railroad. He



bought this property in 1837 and made a grand home with a beautiful lawn, surrounded by a brick wall. The building was deeded to the town in 1916 by Clark's family to be called Clark Memorial. From 1916 to 1994, the town offices, library and meetings were held here. The Clark home has been privately owned since the town opened the current Municipal Building in 1995, and is the current Christine Turner residence. - 6 Main Street -

31



31. In the early 1840s, prominent lumbering, real estate and railroad businessman Joseph Clark built this large brick office building. Through the years it has housed many businesses and offices, and was owned by the Brisson family from the 1940s until 2018, when current owners Marty Steinhausen and Kari Stoakes purchased it from the Armand Brisson estate. They

have done a complete top-to-bottom renovation of the building into their upstairs home, with Arrowhead Lodge taphouse on the first level, built and operated by Nick and Lauren Mark. - 2 Main Street -

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