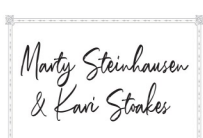
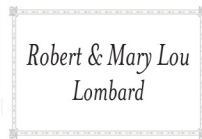


Thank you to our 2023 sponsors who help make events like this possible.

The Milton Historical Society presents Historic Village Loop Walking Tour



**Saturday, May 4, 2024
10 am - 2 pm**

**Self-Guided Tour of
School Street,
Cherry Street, River Street
and Lower Main Street**

Historic Overview of the Route

For over 100 years, Milton's Main Street area was the hub of business and social life in town. Our last walking tour, in October 2020, focused on the two business districts, one on Upper Main Street near the railroad station and the other at the intersection of Main Street and River Street. This area provided the needed services and goods for this small dairying community.

The structures that housed the businesses on Main Street have mostly survived, however many have been repurposed into private residences and apartments.

This year's tour revisits lower Main Street and then expands to include historical sites on River Street and School Street as well.

A Few Notes about the Tour:

- ◆ For your safety and convenience, the tour is designed to minimize the number of road crossings. Please find a map on pages 12 & 13 of this Brochure and follow the numbered site placards.
- ◆ QR Codes are available at some locations and, by using your Smartphone, you will be able to access additional information and photographs. QR codes are on site placards and listed on page 23.
- ◆ While enjoying the wonderful history of this part of Milton, please respect the property of the homes and businesses you are viewing.
- ◆ Our tour begins at the Milton Historical Museum at 13 School Street and will proceed south on School Street to the intersection with Cherry Street.

A big thank you to the Milton High School students who spent their Sept. 11th Service Learning Day with us, recording the audio for these QR codes.



Site #1



Site#2



Site#3



Site #10



Site # 14



Site #19



Site # 20



Site #21



Site #25



Site #32

***If you are having trouble with a QR code above or on a site placard, please visit www.miltonvthistory.com at any time to access the additional information and photos.**

This Brochure provides an outline of buildings and building sites along the 2024 walking tour route. More information, pictures and artifacts are available at the Milton Historical Museum. Our regular hours are on Saturdays 10am - 2pm, May through October or by appointment. Please reach out with questions any time at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com, visit miltonvthistory.com, follow the [Milton Historical Society Facebook](#) page, or call 802-893-1604. Please consider joining the Society with your membership.



MILTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



32. J.K. Smith was an early photographer in Milton. He arrived in 1880 and established a thriving photography business in Milton Falls. In the 1890's he purchased this house and ran his business from it. Many of the older photographs featured in this tour brochure and within the Milton Historical Museum were taken by J.K. Smith. He captured the people, places, and events in Milton at the turn of the last century. This home is currently owned by the Micklus family.
-11 School Street- [\(See page 23 for QR code to learn more\)](#)



- ◆ You will take a right on Cherry Street and walk down the hill to River Street. You will then take a view to the left to observe a few sites to the south and then backtrack and proceed north on River Street.
- ◆ The numbered placards will all be located on the east side of busy River Street/Route 7.
- ◆ Our tour of River Street will take some imagination as many of the early historic buildings fell victim to fires or the Flood of 1927. The photos in the brochure will provide you with a glimpse of the past.
- ◆ Walking north, the tour now brings you to the intersection of River Street and Main Street. This area was also devastated by the Flood of 1927, so the landscape today is much different than the photographs.
- ◆ You will take a right as you turn up Main Street. The numbered site placards will be located on the south side of the street.
- ◆ Finally, you will take a right onto School Street and return to the Museum. When you return from your tour, we welcome you to come inside to view our many exhibits based on Milton's rich history. Thank you for joining us!



1. Our tour begins with the **Milton Historical Museum**. It was originally built and consecrated in 1891 as the **Trinity Episcopal Church**. The building served as a church until it was deconsecrated in 1999. The building then became the Milton

Historical Museum. During the Covid pandemic the Museum was “reimagined” to share specific stories concerning Milton’s rich history.

-13 School Street- [\(See page 23 for QR code to learn more\)](#)

2. Milton’s Civil War Monument

was dedicated on September 6, 1909, at the intersection of Main Street and River Street. It prominently stood at that location until 1995 when Route 7 (River Street) was widened. The monument was then moved to the Town Offices which were located in the Clark Building (see site #21). When the Town Offices were relocated to Bombardier Road, the monument was moved once again. It was rededicated at a ceremony at this location on September 6, 2004.

-13 School Street-

[\(See page 23 for QR code to learn more\)](#)



30. Built in the 1830’s, 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-



31. 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-

28. In 1848, 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. It has recently been renovated by Marty Steinhausen and Kari Stoakes. *-18 Main Street-*



29. 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 1950's, and it has been owned by the **Skapski family** since 1956. *-19 Main Street-*



3. School Street was constructed in the early 1870's to accommodate a new **school building** which would serve both elementary and high school students. The school opened in 1894 and an addition was constructed in 1936. On February 18, 1943 disaster struck. A fire started in the boiler room while the school was in session. 200 students were safely evacuated within minutes, but the building was a total loss.

After the fire, a new school was constructed on the site and opened on April 1, 1944. It served as a high school until 1969 and as an intermediate school until 1998. Currently it is an apartment complex.



-30 School Street-

[\(See page 23 for QR code to learn more\)](#)

4. This beautiful Victorian home was built in 1906 for the **Phelps family.** Karl and Ethel Phelps and their four children lived here for



many years. Karl worked with his brother and father at the O. G. Phelps store (see site #17). Currently, this is the home of the **Painted Lady Café.**
-15 Cherry Street-

5. This commercial building was built in 1965 by Bill and Clara Brooks as the **Dari Whip**. Later it became the **Village Roost**, **New York Pizza Oven**, and **Rosario's**. In recent years it housed **Triple J's**, **Roaster's BBQ** and **Tom's American**. Currently it is the home of **Huddy's** which opened in 2022.
-40 River Street-



6. Mineral Springs were an early tourist attraction to Vermont locales. Any foul-tasting water was believed to have medicinal value and tourists either drank it or bathed in it for its presumed benefits. Milton promoted its **Lamoille Mineral Spring** which was located near this location. A rustic, vine-covered spring house greeted the tourists. The water was also bottled, and those embossed bottles are highly collectible.



26. This was 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 1800's.

Homer L. Powell was a lifelong resident of Milton (1887-1956), operating H. L. Powell's Store from 1912 until the 1930's. 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. Adams recreated the two-story front porch.
-14 Main Street-

27. Built c.1820, this is one of the first homes on Main Street, owned early by Marion Ward. Known as the **Brown House** in the late 1800's, 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. This was the site of **Dr. Luman Holcombe's** Queen Ann-style home. **Dr. Holcombe** moved to Milton in 1894 shortly after earning his medical degree from UVM.

He hired Eugene Allen to build a 24-room home, which was built between 1900 to 1902. Holcombe retired from medicine in 1948 after fifty-four years of service. The Barsalow family purchased the building in 1978, and operated **Barsalow Insurance** here for many years. Tragically the house was destroyed by fire in February 2020 (photo below). The current house retains some features of the original, such as the grand porch and the protective roof over the driveway on the east side of the structure. -15 Main Street-
[\(See page 23 for QR code to learn more\)](#)



7. A tannery once stood near this site. This photo is looking north on River Street/Leather Lane. The tannery would be on the right. Animal hides were processed into leather and leather products at the business. No

known photographs exist of the tannery, but lower **Cherry Street** is still referred to as **Leather Lane** and **Gimlet Hill** is named after a leather working tool.

8. The **Park on River Street** was once a small neighborhood of homes. That changed on November 4, 1927, when the floodwaters rose and heavily damaged the buildings. Ed Cote, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday, recalls being rescued by a rowboat here when he was four years old. The area has repeatedly flooded since 1927. Most recently, the Park and a portion of River Street flooded in July of 2023. On a lighter note, during the summer of 1999, a climactic scene from



the movie, *Me, Myself & Irene* (starring Jim Carrey and Renee Zellweger) was filmed at the Park.
 -39 River Street-

9. In the mid-twentieth century, a **Texaco Station** operated in this building. The building has expanded and now houses **Jenkins Garage**. -26 River Street-



10. This was the site of the **Milton Opera House**. Local folks were entertained and educated by both local performers and performers from Boston and New York City. The street level floor housed businesses such as the **E. Bevins Meat Market**. On March 31, 1914 the Opera House was completely destroyed in a major fire. -15 River Street-



[\(See page 23 for QR code to learn more\)](#)

23. 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 his residence. He served as **Postmaster** in his home from 1828 to 1840. **Burgess & Hill** was a prominent business during the 1800's. The current owner is Lisa Hess. -5 Main Street-



24. **Marion Ward** was a prominent landowner who built this large Colonial home 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 1920's until 1951, when **Dr. Wilton Covey** purchased the house. He lived and held his medical practice here for 12 years. The Phillip Moeykens family purchased the home in the late 1960's and have lived there since. -11 Main Street-



21. Joseph Clark, Milton's most important benefactor, came to Milton at the age of twenty. He made a fortune in lumber, real estate, and the railroad. He bought this property in 1837 and built 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 Memorial has been privately owned since the Town opened the current Municipal Building in 1995. Initially the building housed restaurants like **The Old Soldier Restaurant** and **Cody's**. The current owner is Christine Turner. [\(See page 23 for QR code to learn more\)](#)



-6 Main Street-

22. The original Boardman House burned in a major fire in 1878 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 the **Public Electric Company**. The building was also used by a portion of the students displaced by the February 1943 School Street School fire, until the new school was built in 1944. IGA store co-owner Leonard Branch bought the property in 1945 and the Branch family lived there for over fifty years. The house is currently owned by Eric Thibodeau and Vanessa Wylie. -3 Main Street-



11. The Cormia Building, owned by Frank Cormia (see site #24), was located directly to the north of the Milton Opera House. It housed several businesses and offices and it was also destroyed in the March 31, 1914 fire. Later, a small restaurant was built on the site and Bill and Clara Brooks were famous for their French fries. They eventually opened the Dari Whip (site #5) in the 1960's. -11 River Street-



12. From the 1940's to the 1990's, this was the site of **Desranleau's Gulf Station** and the family lived in the rear of the business. The building then became a **meat market**, run by James Desranleau. **Jenkins Garage** moved in for a short while before moving to 26 River Street. Now it is the home of businesses such as **Fawn's Creations**, **A Girl and a Chair**, **Red Clover Counseling**, and **Quail Hollow Counseling**. -12 River Street-

13. In the 1940's, this building was a **Mobil (Socony)** gas station run by Ralph Wells. During its history it was also a **bakery, Northwest Auto,** and **Catamount Auto.** In recent years it has housed a U-Haul rental site and **Tool Wizard and More/Dawg House Crew Custom Apparel.** Currently **Little "A" Wood Flooring** is housed in the building.
-5 River Street-



14. Currently this site is occupied by **Rowley's** fueling station, but it has been home to a series of historic buildings. The **Masonic Building** was constructed in 1849 and housed **Quinn's Hardware Store.** This brick structure burned in

1878 and then a large wood frame building was constructed on the site. It housed the **Powell's Store** and the **Post Office.** Eventually, the lower part of the building became **Branch's IGA,** run by the Branch brothers, and George Branch ran a **mercantile** business upstairs. **Al Beaupre** then ran **Al's Upstairs** from 1975-1983. The IGA was razed in 1987 but you can still see some of its foundation.

-8 River Street-

[\(See page 23 for QR code to learn more\)](#)

19. At the northern edge of the small parking lot and at the entrance of the existing bridge, there once was a thriving general store named **The Hub.** The store had a central location in the town square, hence the name **The Hub.** At the time of the 1927 Flood, the proprietor was **Ray Coburn.** Just to the north of **The Hub** was the **Star Theatre** where silent films were shown to folks of Milton. The building was originally a wheelwright shop, where carriage wheels for buggies and farm equipment were manufactured. Both of these structures fell victim to the floodwaters.



[\(See page 23 for QR codes to learn more about sites #19 and #20\)](#)

20. In the 1860's, prominent lumber, 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 1940's until 2018, when **Marty Steinhausen** and **Kari Stoakes** purchased it from the **Armand Brisson Estate.** They totally renovated the building. **Nick and Lauren Mark** now own the building, live upstairs and run the **Arrowhead Lodge** on the first level.

-2 Main Street-



17. In 1949, **Ralph Wells**

built the single-story full-service gas station.

Marty Branch began working at the station when he was 15 years old.

In 1974 Marty Branch purchased the business. In 1978 he added the second

floor and in the early 1990's he converted the business into a convenience store. Currently, this houses the **Valero** gas station and convenience store. -6 River Street-

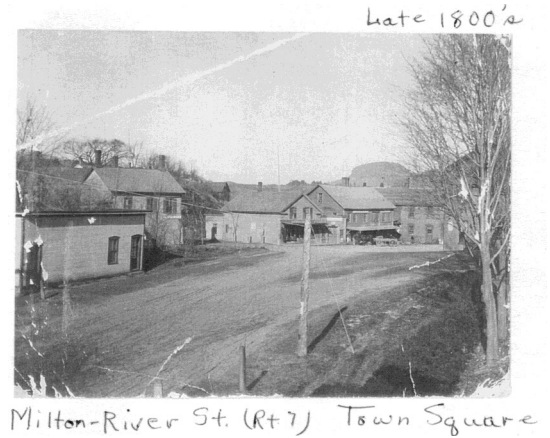


18. Directly north of the former O. G. Phelps building there is a small parking lot. River Street once ran through this lot, crossed the Lamoille River, and the former bridge abutments can still be seen. This crossing was established in 1832 with the construction of a two-laned **covered bridge**. The covered bridge was replaced by an **iron bridge** in 1887. This iron bridge was swept away by the floodwaters in 1927. With the construction of the dam in 1936, River Street was

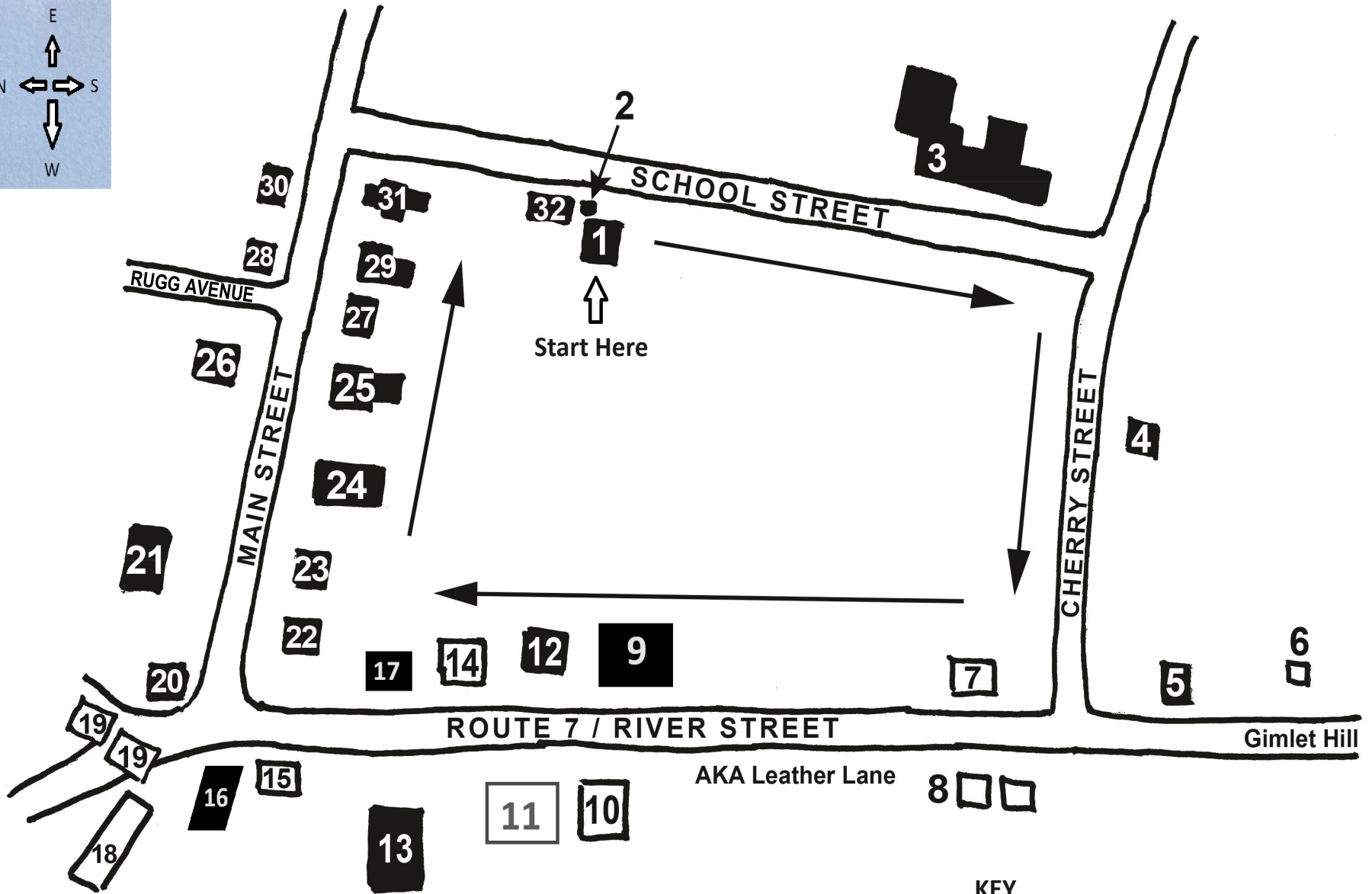
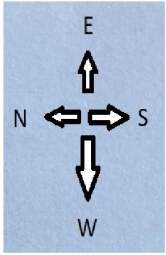
rerouted across the Lamoille River with a **truss bridge** which was replaced in the mid 1990's with the **current bridge**. In the summer of 2023, the bridge was repaved.



15. A small one-story wood-frame building once stood on this site. It managed to survive the Flood of 1927, probably because the O.G. Phelps building (not yet built in the photo on the right) blocked the flow of the floodwaters. Throughout the years, this little white building (to the left in this photo) housed **Cliff Sweeney's barbershop**, a **restaurant**, and a **bicycle shop**. The building was eventually razed. -3 River Street-



16. The **O.G. Phelps** building, on the right in the photo above, was constructed in 1905 and served as a general store. G. W. Phelps continued his father's business. The building then housed the **Frost Pharmacy** in the early twentieth century. In more recent times, it was **Collette's Furniture**, the original **Wendell's Furniture**, and housed a **laundromat** in the back of the building. Today it is an apartment building. (The building described in #15 above can be seen in the left of this photo.) -1 River Street-



KEY

Existing Structure 

No Longer Standing Structure 