



A Short History Of Lima

What are so many grand houses doing in the middle of acres of cornfields and twenty miles from any large city? The Seneca Indians were the first ones to recognize Lima's value as a place to live, when they chose it as the site of one of their major villages. Early settlers may have followed the Indians' lead. Lima of the past, prosperous and diversified, was both a community of wealthy farmers and merchants and a community of college teachers and students. The beautiful proportions and lines of the historic buildings that remain today remind us that this present small village once enjoyed a glorious past. Appreciation and concern for the unique character of the village is enhanced as we learn more about our past by taking this walking tour.



Tennie Burton Museum

Another home with lovely acorn roof brackets, possibly built circa 1837. In 1863 the roof was changed from pitch to hip roof with brackets and cupola added. Belle Chapin Tenny, who purchased this house in 1906 and lived here until her death in September, 1976, at age ninety-nine years, bequeathed it to the Lima Historical Society for a museum, which opened Memorial Day 1978.

This pamphlet is a 1980 publication of the Lima Historical Society, Lima, N.Y.

Designed by Mary Hoppert
 Drawings by George Peters & Mary Hoppert
 Written & Edited by Fran Gotcsik & Donna Palmer
 We thank those members of the Lima Historical Society who contributed information to make this pamphlet possible.



the Crossroads of
Western New York



East Main Street cont.

7449 Matthew Warner House If you are energetic, you have continued east to this painted brick Post-Colonial home built in 1806 for Matthew Warner, a Judge and State Assemblyman. This house was also used as an inn. Originally, Mr. Warner owned all the land on this side of East Main up to the business district.

Retrace your steps along East Main and then cross the street.

7378 Vary House Note the similarity in style of this Eastlake Victorian mansion to the Gilbert home. They are reputed to have been built by the same man.

7372 Although the front section of this house was built circa 1855, some characteristics of earlier Federal architecture were incorporated, such as the fanlight and the lack of thick pilasters at the corners, as found next door at 7364 East Main. The doorway is especially well-executed in the Greek Revival style.

7364 Stanley House Front section built 1857 in the Greek Revival style for Daniel Stanley, owner of the large business block and a bank. The small frieze windows covered by cast iron grills, located above the second story windows, are also examples of this architectural style. The rear wing was built circa the mid 1830's, but probably modernized in 1857 to blend with the new addition.

Baptist Church Completed in 1856 and used for services until 1968.

Business District New facades hide the true age of some of these buildings. The roof line of the sandwich shop indicates it may be of Post-Colonial construction. There has been a pharmacy in the same location since 1830. Western Auto was Beadle Brothers store. The present American Hotel was built in 1861 by John Mosher. It is the third hotel on the site since 1816.

Turn left and walk up Lake Avenue.

Lake Avenue

1945 Built circa 1839. First Catholic Mass in Lima was said here in 1842 when John Brennan owned the house.

1953 As you pass this house, look for a crumbling, overgrown foundation. This is the remains of a cooper or machine shop built circa 1834. In 1850 a Catholic school was begun here.

St. Rose Church and School First Catholic church built in 1849 on the location of the present rectory. In 1870 this building was moved back and rebuilt as a school. The present church building was completed in 1872. In 1894 Brenden Hall was built, which was a Catholic grade school until it closed and the building is now occupied by the New York State police.

1950 Charles Bristol House Bracketed style home built circa 1875 for Charles Bristol, a painter. Note the charming Eastlake style railing over the entrance hood.

1938 William Bristol House Built circa 1850 for William Bristol, father of Charles. The small dentils of the frieze of this Greek Revival home are especially pretty. The family lived in a log cabin, located just north of the present house on the bank by the driveway, until the house was built.



Elim Bible Institute cont.

was transferred to Syracuse to become Syracuse University. An extremely significant example of the Greek Revival style of architecture. Note the resemblance of this building to a Greek temple such as the Parthenon. Stand on the imposing ionic columned portico and gaze both up at the two-story high shuttered windows of the chapel and out across the village and surrounding countryside.

Genesee Wesleyan Seminary Building or "Main Building" Built 1842 on the remaining cut stone foundation of a structure erected in 1832 by the Methodist Episcopal Church. Has served as classrooms and dormitories for institutions of higher learning since its construction. The circular, columned cupola, the well-carved entablature, and the imposing pediments make this building also a fine example of Greek Revival style.

After strolling the campus and enjoying the vistas from this high elevation in Lima, walk north on Mill Street and down Maplewood Avenue. Some of the homes on these and adjacent streets were built or adapted to accommodate Seminary students. Some have rooms in their basements, while others are organized into suites of sleeping rooms.

Maplewood Avenue

7284 A good example of a Federal style doorway can be found on this house built between 1836 and 1850 for Micah Seager.

Upon reaching Rochester Street, turn left and walk north.

Rochester Street

1764 Hiram Welch Boarding House Built circa 1856 for Mr. Welch, a Steward of Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, to house his family and twenty-five GWS students.

1760 Another Federal doorway can be seen here, indicating this house was probably built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Cross the street at the Seneca Street intersection.

1747 Horace Coe House The Doric columns and the symmetrical plan of this house make it a classical example of Greek Revival architecture. It was built circa 1852 for Horace Coe, a farmer.

1763 Methodist Parsonage Originally a one-story brick structure with cupola. Side porch is original. Roof raised to accommodate another story and front porch added around the turn of the century. It was used as a parsonage until about 1930.

Most of the houses you will pass on either side of the street were built prior to the Civil War. Pay attention to the number with fanlights in their gable ends; usually indicative of an early construction date.

1795 Another beautiful Federal doorway. Porch was added around the turn of the century.

1815 Dailey House Built circa 1870 by Joel Dailey, a retired stage proprietor. It is a fine example of Bracketed style architecture. The acorn pendants on the paired roof brackets are especially well-carved.

If you look across the street, you will also see several other examples of the Bracketed style.

1831 Note the pretty Federal doorway and the Greek Revival pilasters.

1836 Alverson House Built circa 1845 for James Alverson, mathematics professor at GWS and Genesee College. Note the well-carved bead and reel molding and the deeply carved dentils of the frieze, indicative of the Greek Revival style architecture of this brick house. A closer look at the front door will reveal a carved honeysuckle motif.

1839 Cargill House Built circa 1852 for Samuel P. Cargill, general store owner. This brick house is also in the Greek Revival style with impressive ionic columns supporting the porch.

1850 Tennie Burton Museum Turn to back page for further information on our museum.

96 St

331

1839



1938

195



Westside

4 Corners
 Presbyterian Church Founded October, 1795. Present brick Gothic Revival structure built in 1874 to replace a smaller frame one built in 1816. This was the first church of any denomination to be formed west of Seneca Lake.

West Main Street
7242 Hillcrest Built in 1838 for Erasmus Clark, a retired local dry goods merchant. The agricultural prosperity of the area at this time brought Mr. Clark the business success that allowed him to build this grand home which is a good example of American provincial architecture, combining features of the Colonial and Greek Revival. The house is situated on an open knoll which was the site of a large Seneca Indian village, Ska-haso-ga-o.

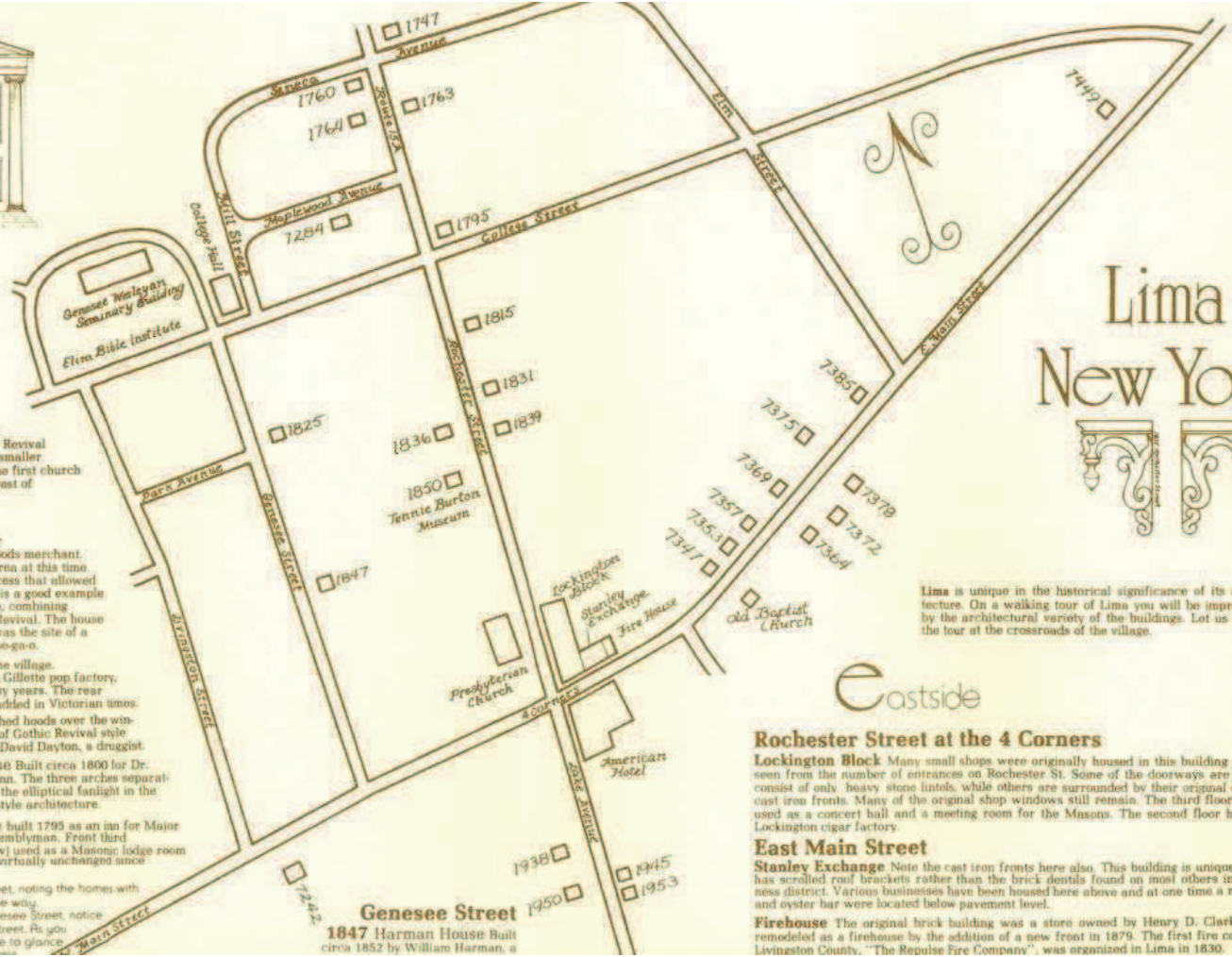
7192 Only cobblestone home in the village. Built circa 1836. The founder of the Gillette pop factory, Schuyler Gillette, lived here for many years. The rear frame portion and the porch were added in Victorian times.

7180 Note the well-executed, arched hoods over the windows and front doorway, examples of Gothic Revival style architecture. Built in the 1840's for David Dayton, a druggist.

7137 Dr. Judson Smith House Built circa 1800 for Dr. Smith, a physician, and used as an inn. The three arches separated by pilasters across the front and the elliptical fanlight in the pediment are indicative of Federal style architecture.

7136 Asahel Warner House built 1795 as an inn for Major Warner, businessman and state assemblyman. Front third floor room (behind the round window) used as a Masonic lodge room 1810-1825. This room has been left virtually unchanged since that day.

Retrace your path along West Main Street, noting the homes with lovely bracketed entrance hoods along the way. Before you start up the east side of Genesee Street, notice how the view of College Hall graces the street. As you continue to walk through the village, pause to glance at the structure of College Hall and the Square.



Lima New York



Lima is unique in the historical significance of its architecture. On a walking tour of Lima you will be impressed by the architectural variety of the buildings. Let us begin the tour at the crossroads of the village.

Eastside

Rochester Street at the 4 Corners

Lockington Block Many small shops were originally housed in this building as can be seen from the number of entrances on Rochester St. Some of the doorways are plain and consist of only heavy stone lintels, while others are surrounded by their original decorative cast iron fronts. Many of the original shop windows still remain. The third floor has been used as a concert hall and a meeting room for the Masons. The second floor housed the Lockington cigar factory.

East Main Street

Stanley Exchange Note the cast iron fronts here also. This building is unique in that it has scrolled roof brackets rather than the brick dentils found on most others in the business district. Various businesses have been housed here above and at one time a restaurant and oyster bar were located below pavement level.

Firehouse The original brick building was a store owned by Henry D. Clarke. It was remodelled as a firehouse by the addition of a new front in 1879. The first fire company in Livingston County, "The Republic Fire Company", was organized in Lima in 1830.

Genesee Street
 1847 Harman House Built circa 1852 by William Harman, a

Westside

4 Corners

Presbyterian Church Founded October, 1795. Present brick Gothic Revival structure built in 1874 to replace a smaller frame one built in 1816. This was the first church of any denomination to be formed west of Seneca Lake.

West Main Street

7242 Hillcrest Built in 1838 for Erastus Clark, a retired local dry goods merchant. The agricultural prosperity of the area at this time brought Mr. Clark the business success that allowed him to build this grand home which is a good example of American provincial architecture, combining features of the Colonial and Greek Revival. The house is situated on an open knoll which was the site of a large Seneca Indian village, Ska-hase-ga-o.

7192 Only cobblestone home in the village. Built circa 1836. The founder of the Gillette pop factory, Schuyler Gillette, lived here for many years. The rear frame portion and the porch were added in Victorian times.

7180 Note the well-executed, arched hoods over the windows and front doorway, examples of Gothic Revival style architecture. Built in the 1840's for David Dayton, a druggist.

7137 Dr. Judson Smith House Built circa 1800 for Dr. Smith, a physician, and used as an inn. The three arches separated by pilasters across the front and the elliptical fanlight in the pediment are indicative of Federal style architecture.

7136 Asahel Warner House built 1795 as an inn for Major Warner, businessman and state assemblyman. Front third floor room (behind the round window) used as a Masonic lodge room 1810-1825. This room has been left virtually unchanged since that day.

Retrace your path along West Main Street, noting the homes with lovely bracketed entrance hoods along the way.

Before you start up the east side of Genesee Street, notice how the view of College Hall graces the street. As you continue to walk through the village, pause to glance in the direction of College Hall and the Seminary Building. You will find that they can usually be seen majestically towering above the village and the town.

Genesee Street

1847 Harman House Built circa 1852 by William Harman, a builder, in the Gothic Revival style. This is one of the few surviving pure examples of this architectural style in the area. Note the beautifully carved verge boards under the eaves, the elaborate hoods over the second story windows, and the similarity between the hoods over the first floor windows and those found at 7180 West Main. The carriage step remains, marked with the Harman name.

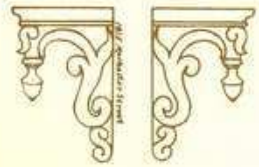
1825 Beautifully detailed Greek Revival cottage built circa 1851 for William DePuy. Note the three doors opening onto the front porch for greater access to outdoors. The dentil work in the entablature is well done. The hoods over the windows are in the Gothic Revival style and like those on the Harman House.

Cross College Street to enter the campus of the Elim Bible Institute. Both College Hall and Genesee Wesleyan Seminary Buildings were entered on the National Register of Historic Places, July, 1976, as buildings significant in American History and architecture.

Elim Bible Institute

College Hall Completed 1851. Housed classes of Genesee College.

Lima New York



Lima is unique in the historical significance of its architecture. On a walking tour of Lima you will be impressed by the architectural variety of the buildings. Let us begin the tour at the crossroads of the village.

Eastside

Rochester Street at the 4 Corners

Lockington Block Many small shops were originally housed in this building as can be seen from the number of entrances on Rochester St. Some of the doorways are plain and consist of only heavy stone lintels, while others are surrounded by their original decorative cast iron fronts. Many of the original shop windows still remain. The third floor has been used as a concert hall and a meeting room for the Masons. The second floor housed the Lockington cigar factory.

East Main Street

Stanley Exchange Note the cast iron fronts here also. This building is unique in that it has scrolled roof brackets rather than the brick dentils found on most others in the business district. Various businesses have been housed here above and at one time a restaurant and oyster bar were located below pavement level.

Firehouse The original brick building was a store owned by Henry D. Clarke. It was remodeled as a firehouse by the addition of a new front in 1879. The first fire company in Livingston County, "The Repute Fire Company", was organized in Lima in 1830.

7347 Peck House Built 1853 in the Greek Revival style for J. Franklin Peck, a wool merchant. The house was tailored to his needs with offices in the basement and wool storage in the second floor rear wing. Notice the narrow clapboards and flat roof which gives the house a nearly square look. The ornamental frieze windows and front door with sidelights and transom sash are also noteworthy.

7353 Gilbert House Built circa 1888 in Eastlake Victorian style for Mr. Horace Gilbert, president of the Bank of Lima. Note the many steep pitched roofs, the two small triangular balconies over the west side door, the many diamond-shaped wood appliques, and the use of cut shingles as siding.

7357 Burpee House Built 1817 for Samuel Burpee, furniture maker for forty years.

7369 John Coventry House Built 1900 in the Queen Anne style for John T. Coventry, drugstore proprietor. The round turret and the lovely stained glass window on the east side are typical of this architectural period.

7375 Benjamin Seaman House The two story brick section of this house built circa 1820 for Mr. Seaman. The clapboard section was added in 1867 by Charles and Ezekiel Hyde. Notice the garage behind 7385 East Main St. Its type of construction and its multipaned win-

