

barrel on a horse-drawn wagon. Holes in the barrel allowed a spray of water to wet the dirt streets. Streets were not paved until the 1920's.

34. 113 Center St. This 1835 Greek Revival was home to Amelia Jennings in the early 1900's. Ms. Jennings organized Franklin's Audubon Society and gave a party each spring to welcome the birds. She was a charter member of the Village Improvement Society.

35. Community Bible Church. Originally the Baptist Church, this Greek Revival structure was built by Linus Porter in 1834, although the congregation had been meeting since 1793. The building has been renovated several times, but retains its classical exterior. In the rear is a cemetery with graves of numerous early Franklin residents. Unfortunately, much of the steeple has been removed since 2000.

36. 81 Center St. The Amos Douglas House is an 1858 Italianate with arched windows and brackets. The back 2 rooms were part of the original 1813 family homestead. Upstairs there is a large ballroom. A stone-lined tunnel leads from the house beneath to the street. Mr. Douglas became the first president of the First National Bank in 1863.

37. 57 Center St. This 1835 Greek Revival home had 2 side bays added later. The 1880 carriage barn was a livery for DLI. The 3 family home was once known as the "bird house" when occupied by the Finch, Jay and Nightingale families.



37

38. 15 Center St. This 1842 Greek Revival house was built as the Presbyterian Church parsonage. The gazebo and side porches were added later. The barn behind was a part of the church horse sheds.

39. Presbyterian Church Monument. This stone monument marks the site of the church, built in 1842, burned 1918.

Additional Site of Interest:

Ouleout Valley Cemetery. The peaceful cemetery located at the northeastern edge of the village is the burial site of: Lewis Hine—early twentieth century photographer, James McCall—founder of *McCalls* magazine, and Reverend Willard Parsons—founder of the Fresh Air Fund.

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"A man whose heritage is a
Franklin home is indeed blest."

—Amelia Jennings, 1895.

Franklin

Walking Tour



"Of all exercises,
walking is the best."

—Thomas Jefferson

Welcome to Franklin NY,

Population 402

Much like other communities in Delaware County, Franklin was first settled by white Americans from southern New England. In 1784 Sluman Wattles, then Nathan Edgerton arrived from Connecticut. Edgerton built mills and shops, while Wattles became the town's first supervisor in April 1793. The town was named after the eldest son of Benjamin Franklin who owned land in the area.

The opening of the Susquehanna Turnpike (today's Main Street) in the first decade of the nineteenth century brought increased prosperity to Franklin and in 1836 the Village of Franklin was incorporated. John Edgerton bought 100 acres of land and building lots were laid out.

In 1835 the Delaware Literary Institute was chartered and the school quickly became the cultural center of the village. Small industries provided employment to some. A gristmill was built on the Ouleout Creek and a distillery was constructed that turned grain into whiskey for local consumption and for export to Philadelphia by raft. For much of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries agriculture provided the mainstay of the economy—particularly dairy farms.

Franklin features a variety of architectural styles, ranging from the earliest Federal style to Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate. In 1983 the entire village was placed on the National Historic Register.

Certainly, it is worth it to walk around the entire village. Almost every house and building is of historic and architectural interest.



From top:
The Ladies Hall of the Delaware Literary Institute, before it was torn down in 1931 (see #2). Two views of Main Street. All photos from the Delaware County Historical Association archives.



Distance—approx. 1 mile.

Degree of difficulty—light

This walking tour is the result of a partnership between the Delaware County Rural Health Alliance, The Delaware County Office for the Aging, and the Delaware County Historical Association.

The tour is intended to provide interesting historical background to the village of Franklin while promoting the heart-healthy practice of walking.

A Walking Tour of Historic Franklin

Park in the school parking lot on Center Street.

1. Delaware Literary Institute. The first building constructed for the DLI was a four-story Stone Hall completed in 1836. It burned in 1856 and was rebuilt as this three-story stone building still in use by the Franklin Central School. The Franklin Historical Society is housed on the second floor. To the rear is the Presbyterian Church Cemetery.



1

2. Franklin Central School. DLI's Greek Revival Ladies Hall was demolished in 1931 to make way for the present-day school building. This building was damaged extensively by fire in 1969.

3. Chapel Hall. DLI's Chapel Hall was completed in 1856 at a cost of \$3,000. It contained a chapel, large classroom, society rooms and rooms for young men. After DLI closed in 1902 Chapel Hall became the home of the Franklin Stage Theatre Company.



3

4. St. Paul's Episcopal Church. This church, built at a cost of \$10,000 in 1865, was designed by architect Richard Upjohn of New York City. Its Gothic Revival style has been preserved inside as well as out. Chestnut

woodwork from local trees, stenciled walls and electrified whale oil lamps remain.

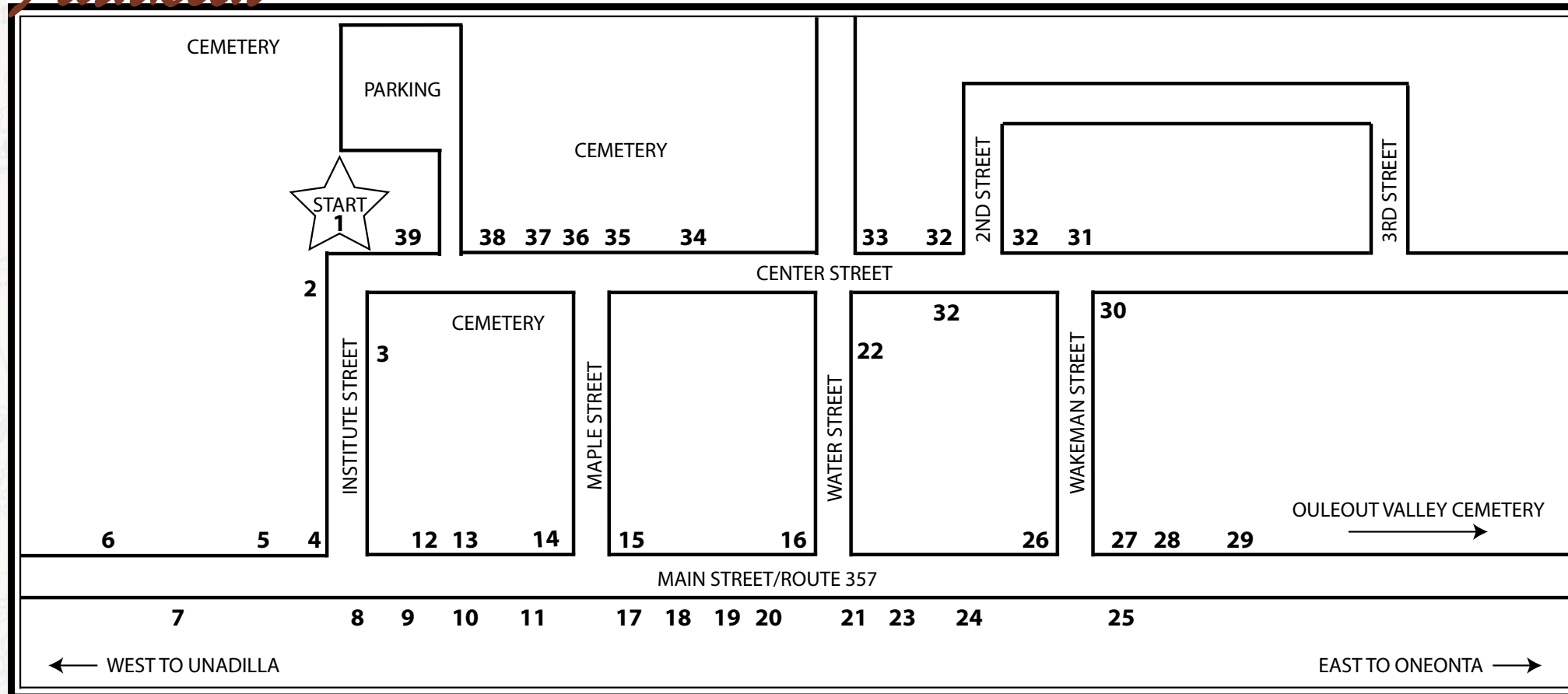
5. 293 Main St.. This c. 1840 Greek Revival home was built for Captain Grant who operated a "temperance hotel" here. He had no license to serve "strong, spirituous liquor." In 1866 the Episcopal Church bought the house for a rectory. The house was also a popular boarding house for DLI students and teachers.



5

6. 173 Main St. Turner Tavern was built in 1792 by Asa Turner, the first merchant in the village. The building was partly log and

Franklin



partly framed. This house was the first frame structure in Franklin and was used as a tavern/inn and store.



7. 252 Main St. This house was completed c. 1839 by Jake Cook who moved here from Columbia County. Cook's tombstone was found buried in the basement and now can be seen in the rear of the house. In the 1870's several bay windows and gingerbread trim were added.

8. 322 Main St. This c. 1840 Greek Revival commercial building was a drug store until well into the 20th century. It was also a luncheonette/soda fountain. The mystery of the disappearance of pharmacist George Sullard (who lived next door at 306 Main) in 1916 is one that is yet to be solved.

9. Franklin Free Library. The current library was built in 1929. The neo-classical structure with Doric portico was built by Andrew Whigham. The library was a gift from Henry Cannon in memory of his grandmother Marietta Jennings White who was a teacher at DLI.



10. 354 Main St. This 1822 home was built for Deacon Isaac Platt, a local merchant and first president of the DLI's Board of Trustees. The Greek Revival home has Federal fanlights and scrollwork and columns of solid logs. Two additions in the mid 1800's made this a "large and commodious boarding house." The Callahan School for Boys was located here from 1868 to 1878. The Mackey family has owned the house since 1911.

11. 398 Main St. This Italianate house, popularly called "Twin Pines," was one of many Franklin homes taking in boarders during the

summer months. One visitor to Twin Pines was Clarence Birdseye, founder of the frozen foods company that bears his name.

12. Firehouse. Currently home to the Fire Dept., this was the location of the Congregational Church, built in 1801. It became Rutherford Hall (or "The Opera House") in 1879. Equipped with a stage and a basketball court it became the center of social activities in Franklin.

13. 357 Main St. This small 1895 structure was built for Civil War veteran Robert Johnson. It remained a law office throughout much of its history except for brief occasions when it served as telephone exchange, bakery and village library. The Eastlake porch was added c. 1910.

14. 405 Main St. This Greek Revival commercial building was built for William Waters in 1843. The Italianate brackets with the star were added later. Franklin's first post office was located here. Over the years numerous businesses have been located here, including the offices of the *The Dairyman* newspaper.

15. 425 Main St. Following the 1938 fire that destroyed the 3 story Franklin Inn & Howard's Funeral Parlor and Furniture Store, this building was erected for Hector Howard. Howard's Funeral Home was the meeting

place for the "Sons of Rest," a group of men who met everyday to play dominoes.

16. United Methodist Church. This frame church with Gothic details was built in 1834. In 1851 the church was remodeled and again in 1867 when the tower was added. In 1887 the widow of James McCall donated a stained glass window featuring scotch thistle in memory of her husband, founder of *McCalls* magazine (buried in Franklin Cemetery).

17. 422 Main St. This 2-story frame commercial building was built in 1878 for Milton Munson. The north side was fitted for a bank. The post office moved to the other side in 1899. There were dentists offices upstairs and for a time *The*



Dairyman was printed in the rear. The bank closed its doors in 1933. Until recently the building housed the "Robinson Department Store."

18. 438 Main St. Now an antique store, this building was built in 1869 after a fire devastated the eastern side of Main Street. The cast iron front reflects the concerns raised by the fire. On the interior, fire-charred bricks can still be seen. The bricks were made locally. On the second floor the remains of the Stilson Hardware and Tinshop can still be seen.

19. Post Office. This 1870 Italianate building with interesting brackets and a balcony with scroll-sawn balustrade has been the site of the post office since 1938.

20. 458 Main St. This 3 story Italianate building was built for J. C. Bush in 1869. It was a department store and a grocery store. Other business and organizations used the upstairs rooms.

21. 482 Main St. This 1855 Italianate home was built for Erastus Edgerton. Immediately in front, Edgerton built the small house to block the view of his neighbor, William Hanford. This building is commonly known as "The



Spite House."

22. Water Street. This building, now housing the village hall, was built in 1881 and was originally the engine house for the fire department. The tower was added in 1887 and the building partitioned in 1893 to accommodate the "Firemen" and the "Edgerton Hose Company."

23. 496 Main St. This ornately trimmed c. 1840 Greek Revival home was the site of the 1884 funeral of *McCall's* magazine founder, James McCall.

24. 510 Main St. This 1825 federal style building was built as the Masonic Lodge. It originally featured a single open space inside with a curved ceiling.

25. 574 Main St. This c. 1840 Greek Revival home was at one time a boarding house and a coffee shop as well as a farm. Victorian porches were removed or enclosed. This was the last active dairy farm in the village.

26. 547 Main St. This 1855 Italianate home was built for George Wakeman. An earlier home on the site was split in 2 parts and moved to other locations. Mr. Wakeman, neighbor, Mr. Noble and Mr. Wiswall built Wakeman Ave.

27. 565 Main St. This particularly ornate c. 1860 Gothic Revival house features pierced and scroll sawn bargeboards and porch lattices.



28. 577 Main St. Built c. 1860, this Italianate home features decorative brackets and corner quoins as a design element. For many years the home housed the practice of a local doctor.

29. 611 Main St. This former tavern was constructed after a fire destroyed a previous building in 1813. The barn in the rear was at one time a cooper shop.

30. 11 Wakeman Ave. The only home with a Wakeman address, this 1860's Italianate home was built by Warren Wiswall for his daughter. The porches were added in 1910. Note the fine barn.

Center St

Center Street was at first called New Street. Prosperous merchants and bankers built their homes here and it was referred to as Franklin's "Silk Stocking District."

31. Center St. This Italianate home was built for J.C. Bush in 1873. The verandah with the bowed curve and iron steps are original.



32. 230 and 218 Center St. These houses are fine examples of Italianate architecture built in the 1860's and 1870's.

33. Water Pipe The water pipe near the corner of Center and Water streets was used to fill a