

103 WATERFORD STREET Originally the barn at the rear of the Gillespie home on Erie St. (now the site of the telephone company building), it was remodeled into a dwelling in the late 1940s. (DST p. 29)

Proceed west on Waterford St. to its junction with Erie St. Turn right (north) and walk north on Erie St.

G.C. PTASICK JEWELERS, 108-106 Erie St. A false front with overhanging bracketed eave distinguishes the only business "block" on Erie Street's east side that dates from the 19th century. (DST cover)

DR. FRANK GREENFIELD HOME, 118 Erie St. Yet another example of domestic Victorian architecture in a country setting. In the years immediately following World War II, the single-family dwelling was divided into apartments that became home to several returning servicemen and their families. (DST, p. 30-31)

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This brochure was made possible
by the following:

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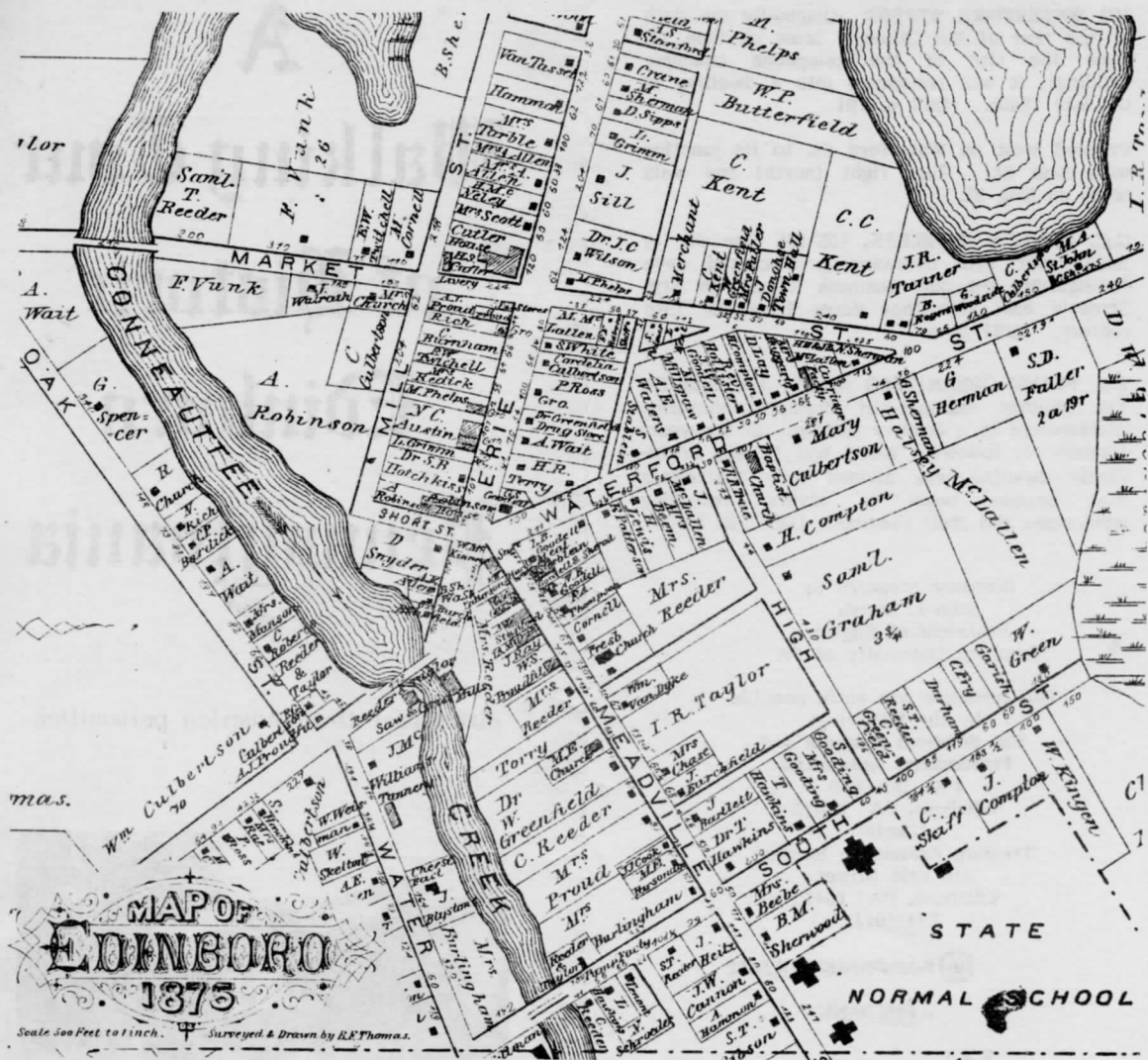
A Walking Tour of Historic Edinboro Pennsylvania

dirt-street town America personified



Northwest corner of Erie & Mill Streets

Named after a fabled city in Scotland to honor the ancestry of its early settlers, the Borough of Edinboro was incorporated in 1840. And the names of many of the streets on the walking tour testify to the pragmatic character of those inhabitants. Erie St. ran to Erie, Meadville St. to Meadville, Waterford Road to Waterford. Using a similar logic, the walker knows just how Normal St. got its name. From the Normal School, of course. And he can appreciate that a street running parallel to Meadville Street, yet higher in elevation, would be called High Street. The route is calculated to bring him face to face with what remains of a late Victorian farm community.



Park on Erie St. (Rt. 99) in the lot just north of Glunt's Funeral Home. No permission is needed. Historic photographs of many of these sites, taken by L.V. Kupper, are included in Edinboro: A Dirt Street Town (1976) and Edinboro: The Journey's End (1989), copies of which may be available at your local library. Page references follow the site description with the abbreviations DST for "Dirt Street Town" and JE for "Journey's End."

FOY HOUSE (Glunt's Funeral Home), 210 Erie St. One of some five examples of domestic architecture in the Victorian manner built by M.J. McCombs. It was constructed late in the 19th century for a family named Foy from blueprints costing \$60-an inconceivable extravagance in the eyes of many. One notable feature is the interior stairway that was constructed in Erie. On being hauled to

Edinboro, the latter was installed as a complete unit. (JE, p. 95)

Head south on Erie St. At the stoplight, cross both Plum St. (Rt. 6N) and Erie St.

CROSSROADS DINOR, sw corner of Erie & Plum Sts., closed. Literally a trolley car purchased from the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railway on the line's demise in 1928. The dinor (sic.), which opened for business by May 1929, was listed in the ninth edition (1942) of Duncan Hines' ADVENTURES IN GOOD EATING. (DST, pp. 26-27)

Continue south on Erie St.

ZINDEL'S, 135 Erie St. Built subsequent to the fire of 1902, this commercial structure was occupied in the early years of the new century

by the firm of Gillespie & Marsh as a general grocery and hardware business. To enter the present store is to step back into those days. Ralph Zindel, whose mother was a Gillespie, says, "If we can find it, we'll sell it to you." (JE, p. 201) (For the nomenclature of Edinboro's fires see DST, p. 40-43)

Continue south on Erie St.

NATIONAL BANK OF EDINBORO, 131 Erie St.

The institution concerned, which received its charter in 1904, operated at this location from 1913 to 1958. Note the alarm box still affixed at the 2nd story level. Older residents recall its dark woodwork and wire cages for the tellers. And, of course, there were convenient spittoons for chewers throughout the business area.

Continue south just past the private drive.

COULTER HOUSE, Bud's Barber Shop, 111-121 Erie St.

A sign at the second-story level indicates that this structure, or at least portions of it, was given over in the 1840s to the Eagle Hotel. And on the 1855 Borough Plan, the building shown is so designated. However, by 1911, a street atlas labels the structure the Coulter House. Its proprietor, Frank Coulter, operated a stage that ran between Edinboro and Erie. Bud Bleakley, who operated a barber shop in the north end of the building for many years, recalls an occasion when the old landmark was renovated. At that time, evidence of a carriage way running east to west through the building was discovered. Bleakley also recalls evidence indicating that the second story may have been given over to something resembling a ballroom.

BRICK DRUG STORE, 105 Erie St.

Built in 1885 by Dr. S.B. Hotchkiss, the three-story structure housed the doctor's surgery on the main floor together with a drug store. The small door to the left of the drug store's entrance gave access to Hotchkiss' surgery. An outside stairway leading to the second story was used by patrons of the professional rooms on that level. A similar flight of stairs led to a third story that was home to various fraternal organizations. (DST, p. 22)

Proceed next door

DR. SIDNEY HOTCHKISS HOME, 103 Erie St.

The physician, a graduate of Edinboro Normal School, Allegheny College, and Bellevue Hospital Medical College, began practicing locally in 1871 and presumably built this towered residence within the same decade. Much of the external trim has disappeared with the years. (JE, p. 199)

Cross Mill St. then Erie St. and proceed south on Meadville St. (Rt. 99 South)

EDINBORO HOTEL BAR, sw corner of Erie and

Meadville Sts. Known as the Drake Block when it was erected in 1911. Prior to the fire of 1909, the Saley building occupied this location. The latter housed the post office on the ground floor and the INDEPENDENT newspaper offices in what constituted the basement. (JE, p. 186-photograph of the pre-1909 structure)

Look east across Meadville St.

EDINBORO SAVINGS BANK BUILDING

(Changes) se corner of Meadville and Waterford Sts. The two-story brick structure, 1903-04, was erected for the Edinboro Savings Bank. Most notably, it was not damaged in the fire of 1909 that otherwise destroyed much of Meadville Street's business district. (DST, p. 16)

Continue south on Meadville St.

112 MEADVILLE STREET (Simply You, Scoops)

This brick structure, erected in 1913-14 at a cost of \$10,000, was the Erie Substation of the Northwestern PA Railway. As such, the facility served as a combination substation, waiting room, and freight depot until the trolley line between Edinboro and Erie was discontinued in 1928. Between 1939 and 1975, the landmark was the boro's "city hall." (DST, p. 15)

Look east across the street.

EDINBORO CLEANERS, 121 Meadville St.

Erected in the wake of the fire of 1905, the building was home to a meat market owned by Frank Walker.

Also across the street is the following.

123 MEADVILLE ST. (Holland Metro Realty)

In 1921, this was the site of the Edinboro Home Bakery. Interestingly, this building once housed the Lakeside Theatre, the community's first and only nickelodeon. (JE, p. 179)

Continue south on Meadville Street past the Boro Hall.

CHURCH, 130 Meadville St.

Erected by a Methodist congregation in 1863. Kupper photographs of the structure reveal a lovely Victorian chapel in the country manner. In 1911, the congregation raised the building on its foundations and undertook substantial remodeling. On the construction of their present church home on High Street, Methodists sold the building to Lutherans, who, in turn, sold it to the Unity congregation.

Look east across the street and you will see the following.

TAYLOR HOUSE, 139 Meadville St. Erected by Isaac Taylor in 1878. As such, it was the

first brick home in Edinboro. On Taylor's death, the property passed to his daughter, Effie Wade. Known as Wade Manor, it was home to many Normal School boys. In 1946, the property was acquired by a couple named Evans who catered to tourists and summer guests until 1971. What had been known as Alice Evans Manor today houses offices of Edinboro University. The "stone" dogs that guard the entrance had been similarly positioned in front of the Hopkins' house, until the early 1960s just south of the Marine Bank on Erie St. (JE, p. 192 & DST, p. 12)

Continue south on Meadville Street

DR. WILLARD GREENFIELD HOME, 136 Meadville St. In November 1925, Drs. Harold A. and Boyd W. Ghering began using the structure as the Edinboro Clinic, the community's nearest approach to a hospital of its own. (JE, p. 189)

DR. NEWTON TAYLOR HOME, 138 Meadville St. The central part of the house was built by Nathaniel Austin for his son, William, about 1868. At that time, the structure stood on a six-acre plot just north of Tarbell Lane. In 1889, it was moved to its present location and used by the doctor as a home and office. At the same time, the "L" portion of the Austin house was positioned on Plum Street. Look for the "historical" sign on the facade.

BIGGERS HOUSE, northwest corner of Meadville St. and Normal St., 148 Meadville St. The house is named after Quince Biggers who operated a hotel and livery stable on the site from 1883-1897. Built by Nathaniel Austin between 1850-55, it houses today the Philosophy and Foreign Language departments of Edinboro University.

Cross Meadville Street at the stop light and proceed straight (east) on Normal St. On the corner by the stop light is the following.

DR. TRUMAN HAWKINS HOME, 153 Meadville St. In 1836, Dr. Hawkins built the classical structure that remained in his family for the next 125 years.

Continue east on Normal St., named in honor of Normal Hall, until its destruction by fire in 1969, the chief administrative and classroom building of the campus of EUP (DST, pp. 43, 78-9, 81). Observe the mix of classically styled (nos. 111-13) and Victorian (no. 115) dwellings that distinguished the boro in Normal School days. Barns stood at the rear of each property with access from Schruers Lane to the north. Look south across the street.

ACADEMY HALL, EUP CAMPUS. This was constructed to house a private academy in 1857. The structure, in the Tuscan style, was originally positioned much closer to Meadville St. The building's life over the years is

detailed in Russell Vance's A PORTRAIT OF EDINBORO, PSI Publishers, 1977. (DST, pp. 74-75. Together with other early buildings it is shown in an 1861 engraving reproduced on p. 78 DST).

Cross High St. then turn left onto the High St. sidewalk noting the American Four Square styled houses #s 119 and 208. These early 20th century dwellings were characteristic of small towns throughout the region.

SHEET'S HOUSE, 109 High St. This illustrates the classical manner at its most restrained. Recent remodeling has substantially altered the character of the home. See below



Lorna Lane (Presbyterian Alley) Looking East

At the northern end of High St. look across Waterford St. to the following.

NED GOODELL HOUSE, 117 Waterford St. (1876) This one-time rural mail carrier was, for a term, the president of the rural mail carrier's association. In retirement, he wrote an old-timer's column for the INDEPENDENT that is an important source of the local history. His home is a compendium of small town taste at the turn of the century. (DST, p. 33, the home ca. 1910)

Turn left (west) on Waterford St. Proceed west on Waterford until you see the plaque on the house across the street.

THE LAYTON BENTLEY GOODELL HOME, 109 Waterford St. (1841) The classical manner is most appropriate for the home of a solid businessman and landowner, one of the most substantial in the borough (Ned was his grandson).

HENRY LEWIS HOME, 110 Waterford St. (ca. 1850) Like its neighbor, 112 Waterford St., the Lewis house was cut up into apartments in the years following World War II. Another example of the classical manner in Edinboro, note the home's classical pediment and the columns with Doric capitals that support the porch roof.