



Walking Tour Waterford Historic Village

4490 Hatchery Road
Waterford, Michigan
in Fish Hatchery Park

Waterford Historical Society

www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org

Open Wednesdays
May-September
10:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Welcome

Welcome to the museums of the Waterford Historical Society. We hope you enjoy a trip back in time to the turn of the 20th century.

Historic Waterford Village is our interpretation of Waterford's place in history. Some of our buildings are original, some are exact replicas and some are representations of what the buildings would have looked like in the early 1900s as progress and prosperity brought Waterford successfully into the next century.

Take a Tour

Take a walking tour of our buildings at your own pace. Follow along with the map and read about each building. Listen to the audio boxes in many of our buildings for additional information.

Our displays are updated constantly as we strive for authenticity and acquire more donations.

We ask that you enjoy our Historic Village with your eyes only and respect that many of our artifacts are fragile. Please only touch if you are in our Hands-On History area. You may also sit in any school desk!

Fish Hatchery Park

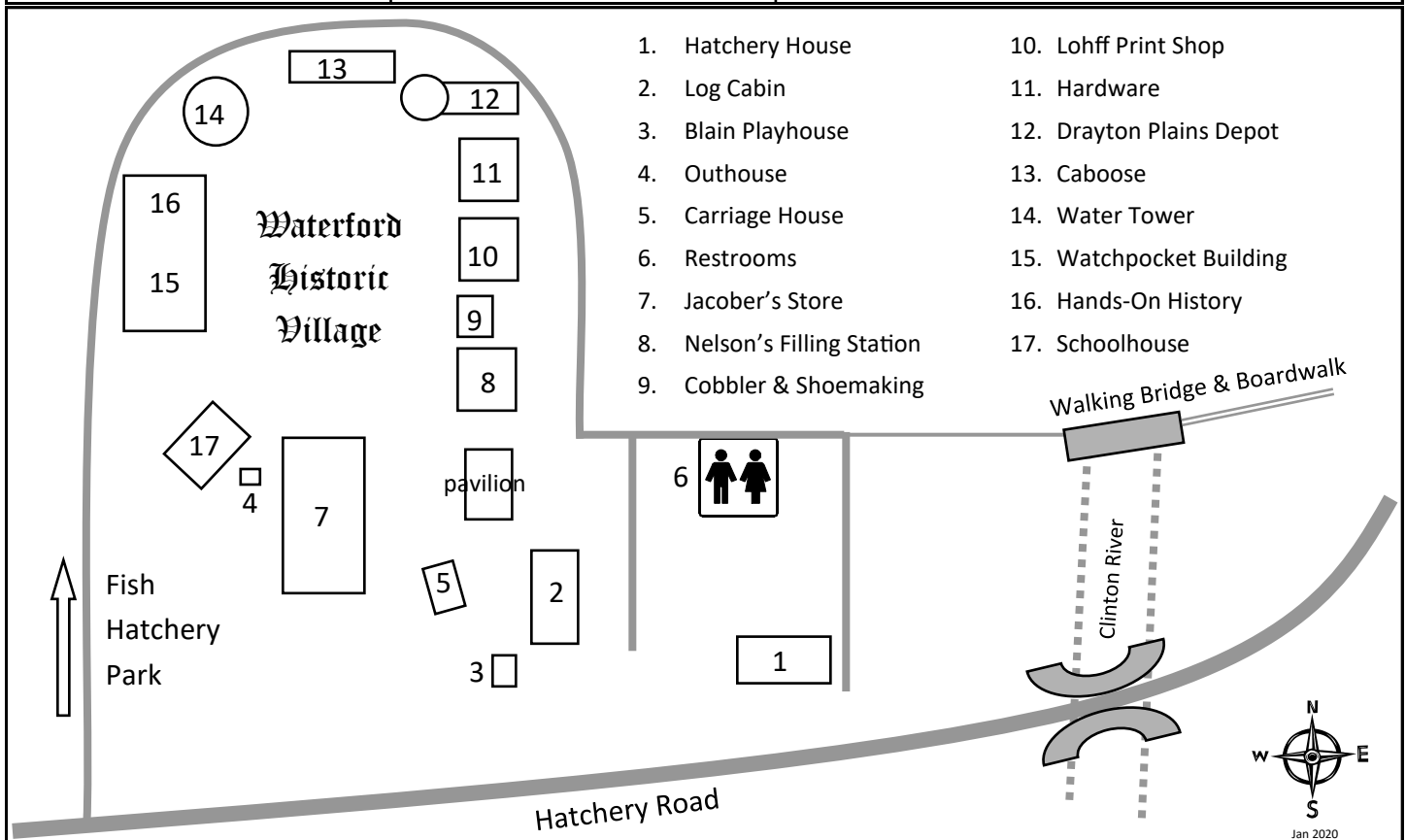
Please enjoy the lovely Fish Hatchery Park along the Clinton River. Feel welcome to sit and relax at one of our many benches or picnic tables.

The Park is owned by Waterford Township and maintained by the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department.

We feel Fish Hatchery Park is a little known Waterford gem that we are proud and fortunate to be a part of.

The Park, along with the grounds of the Drayton Plains Nature Center across Hatchery Road, was once home to the Drayton Plains Fish Hatchery in operation from 1901-1964.

Thank you for visiting and please help us keep Fish Hatchery Park clean and available for all.



1. Hatchery House

The Hatchery House is a Sterling Home Kit house built between 1919-1921. The only Senator B model in existence with the original floor plan. Once the home of the superintendent of the Drayton Plains Fish Hatchery that was in operation from 1901-1964, it now houses the office of the Waterford Historical Society.

This home represents the progress and prosperity of the early 1900s as we moved out of log cabins and into a much more modern age that included indoor plumbing and electricity.

Our extensive library is housed on the second floor and available for research.

5. Carriage House

Carriage houses were common before automobiles as a place to store a horse-drawn carriage and all the necessary tack.

Our carriage house is currently being used for storage and a workshop.

2. Log Cabin

The log cabin was built in the early 1930's for use as a home and variety store. Originally on the north side of Dixie across from Andersonville Road, the log cabin was moved to our site on September 30, 1994.

Our log cabin represents how the early settlers of Waterford lived. Using only the resources available to them in 1818, the pioneers built their homes of logs from the trees they cut down to clear their land.

The plentiful lakes in Waterford were attractive to these early pioneers as basic survival depended on water for farming, fishing as a food source, and later ice for industry.

In our log cabin you will also find our log cabin store where you can purchase various Waterford gifts items and resources such as maps and calendars.

6. Restrooms

Water closet for both ladies and gentlemen.

3. Blain Playhouse

The Blain Playhouse was built in the early 1930s by Doctor Alexander Blain II, founder of the Blain Memorial Hospital in Detroit, for his daughter Shirley.

Built on Blain Island in Lotus Lake, the playhouse moved several times before coming to Fish Hatchery Park in 1997. It is currently a museum for antique toys.

4. Outhouse

Our outhouse was donated by the Waterford Fire Department and came from property on Crescent Lake Road.

Before indoor plumbing existed the outhouse was part of normal everyday life.

As toilet paper was a luxury, old Montgomery Ward or Sears catalogs were used and were also handy for reading material.

Ours is a two-seater.

7. Jacober's Store

Our store is a replica of the original Jacober's General Store built in 1856 on the southeast corner of Dixie Highway and Andersonville Road. August Jacober bought the store in 1917 and ran it until Henry Ford purchased it for \$700 in 1927. Henry Ford had it moved to Greenfield Village where it still stands with the name of J.R. Jones, one of the owners at the turn of the century. August Jacober built another store in the same location and ran it until 1957 when he sold it to the Community National Bank.

General stores were places where people could shop for a wide variety of merchandise they could not make themselves, and were often described as having merchandise available "from cradles to caskets". Our store is a representation of the early 1900s and is called Jacober's Store after August Jacober.

8. Nelson's Filling Station

Our Station represents the early 1920s when automobiles began replacing horse and buggy as the preferred mode of transportation.

At first motorists had to buy their gas in cans from general stores. Next came hand pumps in tanks at the curbside in front of these stores. Congestion ensued with many accidents taking place because the General Stores were sitting so close to the roadway.

To fix this problem, small buildings were built just to sell gas. These were called "filling stations". These stations had dedicated areas where a customer had room to pull up next to the pump in a safer manner.

Next service areas were added to these buildings and became full service gas stations. Starting in 1982, self-serve stations became the norm. Nowadays, full service stations are virtually nonexistent.

Completed in 2011, our Filling Station was entirely funded by Robert Nelson.

9. Cobbler & Shoemaker Shop

This shop was the Eagle Scout project of Brad O'Connor, Boy Scout Troop 51, in Waterford. Previously existing as a storage shed, it was moved from next to our Carriage House to its present location between the Print Shop and Nelson's Filling Station and repurposed in early June of 2014.

The shop represents the early Cobbler Shop that existed in the "downtown" area of Andersonville Road & Dixie Highway in the early 1800's.

Shoemakers or Cobblers were important to early towns. Shoes were very expensive and not disposable.

People wore their shoes for years, had them repaired and then passed them on to others. Children oftentimes went barefoot or only wore shoes to church. Rarely did they have a new pair.

10. Lohff Print Shop

Early print shops were the center of news and information for the people in a community. The printing business was a very well respected and important job, though very labor intensive. Setting type for one newspaper took 25 hours of hand labor.

A print shop would typically produce: newspapers, books, government forms, handbill's, receipt books and advertising for local shopkeepers.

Our printing press was purchased used in 1908 by Theo and Minnie Lohff. They came to the Pontiac/Waterford area in 1923 and set up shop. The press was able to keep the family going during the depression years of the late 1920s.

Built by the Waterford Rotary Club in 2005, the Print Shop also houses our collection of cameras, typewriters and various office machines of the past.

12. Drayton Plains Depot

Our Depot is an exact replica of the Drayton Plains Depot that was on the RR tracks at Hatchery Road just south of Dixie Highway. That original Drayton Plains Depot was built in 1908, closed in 1957, declared an "eyesore" in 1964, and demolished in 1965.

In the early days, train travel was common and the Drayton Plains Depot bustled with daily activity. Many tourists came to Waterford from places like Detroit so they could vacation on the beautiful lakes during the hot summer. Many students in Waterford would ride the train from the Drayton Plains Depot to Pontiac High School to go to school (when Waterford High School only went to 10th grade). Blocks of ice cut from the Pittmans & Dean Ice House on Loon Lake were loaded on the train at the Depot and shipped all over the United States. The Conservation Department shipped live fish raised at the Drayton Plains Fish Hatchery to points throughout the state of Michigan.

11. Webber & Crigger Hardware

As people moved into early towns, Saw Mills sprang up to supply the wood people needed to build their houses and barns. They also needed more specialized tools to build and work with the wood. The need for these tools outgrew the space in the General Store and thus hardware stores came about. This was how most specialty stores began like clothing stores, millineries, book stores, and department stores.

Many times the Hardware store also carried sporting goods, crockery for housewives and toys for children.

Our Hardware Store is a representation of these early specialty stores. Built on our site in 2004, the funds for the Hardware store were donated by Dorothy Webber and named after her husband, Leon C. Webber and her father, John J. Crigger.

13. 1957 Grand Trunk Caboose

The Railroad came to Waterford in 1852, bringing tourists, settlers and all kinds of freight into town. The Railroad also carried Waterford freight, like ice and apples out across the country.

Our Caboose is a 1957, 28 ton, 40 foot reminder of the past. And though not as old as those first Caboose arriving into town, our Caboose still represents that early time in railroad history.

The caboose functioned as an office for the conductor and a home away from home for the trainmen and crew like the brakeman and flagman.

Eventually technology, like automatic airbrakes and then computers, put the caboose out of business. Since 1984, "end of train" or EOT devices have been used on trains. These small metal remote radio devices take the place of every function

the caboose used to do.

In years to come, the only caboose you see will be the ones that have been restored. They are considered obsolete.

Our Caboose arrived on our site in 1999 after retiring from service.

15. Watchpocket Building

The Watchpocket Building and **Bakery** are named after the Ellsworth Watchpocket Family. A bakery in the early 1900s served the same function as today, to provide fresh baked bread, pastries, cookies, cakes and pies to the public. Some Bakeries branched out into candies and would install a soda or ice cream fountain.

Marge & Irene's Millinery is named after the mothers of The Dick & Carol LeMarbe Family. Millineries, most often owned by women, carried all types of ladies hats, gloves and accessories. Many of these shops would also carry clothing or have the ability to custom make clothing for women. This was one of a

few well respected professions for women in the early 1900s.

The Village Barber Shop is a one chair shop. An early 1900s Barber shop functioned, not only as a place to groom the men in a town, but also as a popular center for daily news and gossip. Our circa 1880 chair was donated by the White Lake Historical Society.

The Doctor's Office represents a typical town doctor of the early 1900s. Cramped and simply furnished, the doctor's office was a no-frills place with very little privacy. This was a time when the medical field was just discovering the importance of germs, hand washing and sterilization.

The Dentist's Office also represents an early time in dentistry. Dr. J. Keith Schachern purchased the dentist chair from Ransom & Randolph in Detroit, to start his practice at 28 1/2 W. Huron Street in Pontiac in 1937.

14. Water Tower

The Water Tower was built on our site in 2009 to complement our 1957 Grand Trunk Caboose.

The Water Tower functioned in the era of steam engines when the engines needed to take on water to operate their boilers.

16. Hands-On History

The Hands-On History area is in the north end of the Watchpocket Building and functions as an area where our visitors can “touch” the past.

In this area you will find books, dolls, games and toys. Please feel free to grab a slate and chalk and sit at a school desk to complete your “penmanship or arithmetic exercises”. Write on our full size chalkboard and try your hand at our artifact challenge. You will also find outdoor activities in nice weather:

clothes washing, mattress stuffing, and game of graces.

This section of the Watchpocket building was constructed in part with funds presented in March 2012, to the Historical Society by Paige Daniel as part of her State President project for the Michigan Society, Children of the American Revolution.

17. Schoolhouse

Started in 2014, our schoolhouse is “one-room” and represents the eleven one-room schoolhouses in early Waterford.

A one-room schoolhouse was literally one room where all ages and grade levels were taught together. School was centered on the “Three R’s”, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

The schoolhouse also served other community functions. Social and holiday gatherings, box socials, spelling and singing bees and even church services were held in the schoolhouse.

Education was extremely important to the early Waterford pioneers. Schools were built one by one as the population increased. The first school classes held in Oakland County were in Oliver Williams' sheep barn on Silver Lake in 1821 where seven students attended class. The first schoolhouse was made of logs and erected on that same property in 1822 for twelve students. Ira Donelson was named the first Supervisor of Education in 1835.

Did You Find ?

Icebox, hitching post, corn sheller, 48-star American Flag, butter churn, Telegraph Spoon, moveable type, ice skates, wood burning stove, wood snare drum, telephone, typewriter, straight razor, eyeglasses, ice tongs, yard goods, checkers, chamber pot, cupola, wringer washer, Daguerreotype of Reuben Chapman.

Did You Know ?

Waterford became a Township in 1834. Michigan became the 26th State in 1837.

The first Supervisor of Waterford Township was Isaac Voorheis. He was elected in 1835 with 35 votes.

In 1840, the railroad was completed as far north as Pontiac. It was ten years before construction was completed through Waterford. There were three stations; Drayton Plains, Waterford, and Windiate Park. The railroad made Waterford Lakes available to people from Detroit and other cities. Waterford gradually became a resort area.

The first Township Hall was built in 1941 at the corner of Crescent Lake and M-59. The Waterford Volunteer Fire Department was organized with one fire truck, a 1941 GMC Pumper.

Visitor Information

The Hatchery House, research library, offices and our Log Cabin store are open April through mid December on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

We are closed in inclement weather or if the Waterford School District is closed.

The Village is open from May through the last Wednesday in September each year.

Group tours by appointment, please call 248-683-2697.

General information please call 248-683-2697.

We are located on the Clinton River in Fish Hatchery Park at 4490 Hatchery Road in Waterford between Dixie and Frembes.

Please address all correspondence to:

Waterford Historical Society
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Waterford, MI 48330-0491

Mission Statement

Collecting, protecting and preserving the history of Waterford Township for the interest and education of present and future generations.

www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org

Non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

