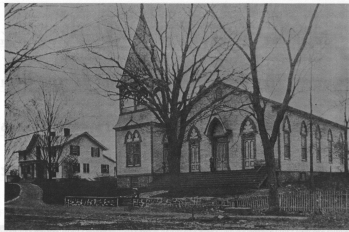




**SAND LAKE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HISTORIC DRIVING
TOUR 2026**

Welcome to the Sand Lake Historical Society's 2026 Historic Driving Tour! Your tour today features 25 stops highlighting aspects of town history. This is SLHS's tenth historic tour and the 50th anniversary of our first, celebrating the bicentennial in 1976. This is a DRIVING tour: houses will not be open and we expect participants to be respectful of homes and properties. Please follow the turn-by-turn directions. Stops have been identified along the way where you can get out of the car and walk or visit local businesses. *And please drive carefully and obey all traffic laws!*



THE SAND LAKE TOWN HALL. Built in 1835 as First Presbyterian Church. Purchased by Town of Sand Lake after the 1962 merger of Presbyterians and Methodists. Dedicated as our town hall in June 1972.

**1. SAND LAKE CENTER FOR THE ARTS;
Originally First Presbyterian Church (c. 1835)
and former Sand Lake Town Hall (OPEN
TODAY)***

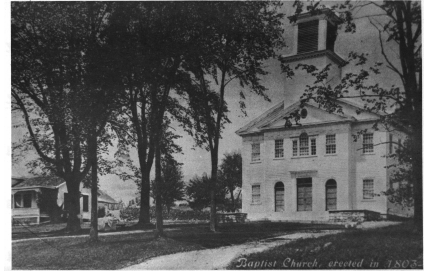
Built in 1835 by the First Presbyterian congregation after relocating from the Union Meeting House. The west wing, bell tower, and stained-glass windows were added in 1890. After the merger of the Presbyterian and Averill Park Methodist Churches in 1967, the building became Sand Lake's first Town Hall. In 2002, the Circle Theatre Players began renovations and the building now hosts the Sand Lake Center for the Arts. ***SLHS Marker Site**

...turn right (west) on NY Route 43



**2. VETERANS HALL / FORMER DISTRICT #7
SCHOOLHOUSE / FUTURE MUSEUM**

On the left. Sand Lake's Two Room School was constructed in 1893, copying the design of the Garfield School in Eagle Mills (which is on the National Register of Historic Places). Following the creation of the Averill Park School District in 1928, the building became home to the Sgt. Walter Adams American Legion Post in 1935, and later the Lt. Perry Williams post of the VFW. Plans are underway to restore the building to its original design and establish the Sand Lake Historical Museum on the ground floor.



THE SAND LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH. Oldest public building in Town of Sand Lake. Erected in 1805, as Meeting House for Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians.

3. SAND LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH*

On the right. The Sand Lake Baptist is the oldest public building in Sand Lake, built in 1805 as the Union Meetinghouse, shared by the town's Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian congregations. The stained-glass windows were installed in 1811; the 1890 bell is from Troy's Meneely Foundry. Radical abolitionist minister (and Underground Railroad operative) Elder Abel Brown, served as pastor here in the early 1840s. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. ***SLHS Marker Site**



4. GREGORY HOUSE / LA PERLA (OPEN TODAY)

On the right as you enter the Averill Park hamlet is the Gregory House (currently the Gregory House Inn and La Perla Restaurant). Five Gregory brothers, including Revolutionary War veteran Stephen Gregory, and their wives and families) settled in Sand Lake in the late 1700s.



5. **YOUNG'S PHARMACY AND GENERAL STORE**
On the left, at the corner of Burden Lake Road, this late 1870s building Young's began as Warger's Dry Goods Store, later housed Ben Silberg's Drug Store, the Averill Park Market and Variety Store and Island Bob's General Store.



6. **LAKEVIEW INN / SITE OF SAND LAKE FEMALE SEMINARY (OPEN TODAY)**

Across the street from Youngs, on the right, is the Lakeview on Crystal Lake restaurant, the site of an earlier Lake View Hotel (which was destroyed by fire in 1980). Prior to becoming a hotel, the 1880s building was home to the Sand Lake Female Seminary, an early school for women.

Veer left at flashing light, remaining on Route 43



AVERILL PARK HOTEL. Originally built as Schenck's College Institute in 1852. In 1880 Horatio Averill converted it into a hotel. It is now the site of the Church of the Covenant.

7. **CHURCH OF THE COVENANT / SITE OF SCRAM'S INSTITUTE & AVERILL PARK HOTEL**
On the left, the current site of the Church of the Covenant was home to Scram's Institute, a boarding school for boys, and, later, Hilke's Hotel and the Averill Park Hotel. Charles Nalle, a fugitive from slavery later freed by Harriet Tubman in Troy, worked and lived at Scram's. The Troy and New England Railway (the Trolley) had its station behind the hotel, bringing visitors from Troy to "Averill Park's" beaches, lakes and amusement

parks. Another Black Man, Adam Blake, Jr., was proprietor of the Averill Park Hotel before opening Albany's grand Kenmore Hotel in 1880. *Continuing west on NY Route 43, on the left, opposite St. Henry's Cemetery, is **Marcy Avenue**, named in honor of William L. Marcy, former NY Governor, U.S. Senator, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State, who lived in Sand Lake as a young man.*

8. **WESTFALL HOUSES**

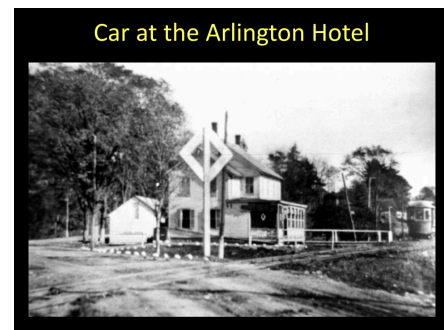
Past Veteran's Park and Averill Park High School, *on the right* (behind stockade fencing) is one of five "Westfall Houses" in Sand Lake, stately center-entrance brick colonials built in the 1830s, on lot purchased from the Patroon, Stephen Van Rensselaer.



MAIN STREET IN AVERILL PARK AROUND 1900. The store attached to the present Weiss house was a market run by Sylvester Vickrey and Fred Cook dating back to 1800's.

9. **TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR**

This section of NY 43 coincides with the Albany Road of 1752, which connected the Bath Ferry (Rensselaer), opposite Albany, to Sand Lake, across the Rensselaer Plateau, over the Berlin Pass to Williamstown, and on to Deerfield and Boston. Later it became part of the Albany, Stephentown Plank Road.



10. **ARLINGTON HOTEL / STOP 22, TROY & NEW ENGLAND RAILWAY (TROLLEY)***

As you enter West Sand Lake, Route 43 follows the rail bed of the Troy and New England Railway (trolley). On the right is the Arlington House, earlier the Elkhorn and the Arlington Hotel, and trolley stop #22. ***SLHS Marker Site**

11. THE WYNANTSKILL

Sand Lake's heritage is linked with the Wynantskill. In West Sand Lake, Route 43 crosses the Wynantskill three times; in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries it would have been lined with mills. Today there are 13 bridges over the Wynantskill in Sand Lake.

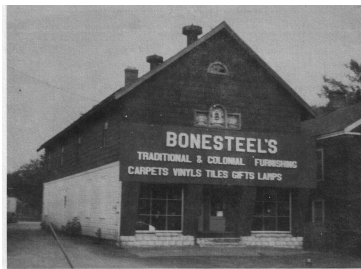


WEST SAND LAKE FIREHOUSE AND 'OLD JOE'. Hand-drawn fire engine purchased April 23, 1874 from S. Burton Company of Rochester, New York for \$500. Engine not operational March 16, 1989 from Burton Fire Engine Co. for \$50.

12. WEST SAND LAKE FIREHOUSE

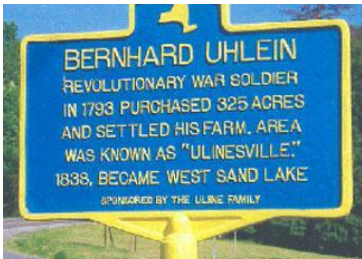
On the left in the heart of the village, the old West Sand Lake Firehouse, built in 1872, is the oldest (and last) original firehouse in Rensselaer County. The 1911 social hall behind it is a very early firehouse community hall.

At traffic light, turn left, south on Route 150



13. KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS HALL / BONESTEEL'S FURNITURE / DATER HOUSE ANTIQUES (OPEN TODAY)

On the left is currently Dater House Antiques, formerly the Four Doors Down Thrift Store, Bonesteel's Furniture, and, originally, the Knights of Pythias Hall.



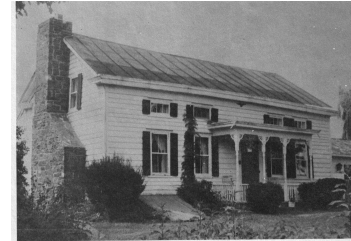
14. ULINESVILLE / WEST SAND LAKE HAMLET / ELMWOOD CEMETERY*

Sand Lake was originally part of the homeland of the Mohican People, whose nearest towns were in today's Schodack, East Nassau, and South Troy.

White settlers came to Sand Lake in the mid-1700s and settlement spread from west to east. Ulinesville was one of the earliest developed areas. Along Route 150 in West Sand Lake are several 18th and 19th century buildings. **Elmwood Cemetery** (*on the right*) was established in 1820.

**SLHS Marker Site*

Left (east) on Sheer Road, CR#52



15. SHEER HOUSE

The saltbox-style house on the right was built before 1854 and features eyebrow windows. It was purchased by Irving Sheer in 1910.

Remain on Sheer Road as it meanders right, turn left at stop sign* (site of former School #1) and continue to Burden Lake triangle*

**SLHS Marker Sites*

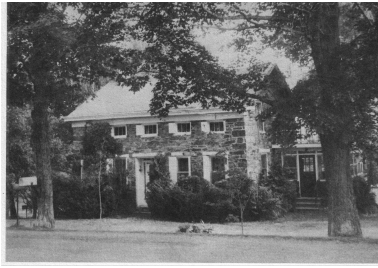


16. BURDEN LAKE / FIRST DYKE ROAD

The three Burden Lakes were established in the mid-1800s to supply dependable water power to Troy's Burden Iron Works, powering the largest waterwheel in the world. If it can be said that Burden's works "won the Civil War", then Sand Lake did, too! The Burden Lakes operate as a "water battery" (like a bathtub), filling with water from the Wynantskill which is released downstream as needed. First Burden Lake is on the left as you cross the dyke and Second Lake is on the right.

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17. HOGLE HOUSE

On the left coming uphill from the lake is the Hogle House. This 1801 structure is built from stones from nearby fields, and is one of many old stone houses in Sand Lake.

Turn left at intersection with Holcomb Road (stop sign), CR#49

18. HOLCOMB CEMETERY.

On your left at the corner is Holcomb Cemetery, the resting place for many early Sand Lake families. The site of former District #2 one-room school is across Holcomb Road.



19. WILLIAM SMITH HOUSE

The white farmhouse *on the left* was built in 1840 by William Smith on land leased from the Patroon. It features hand-hewn flying buttress support beams secured with wooden pegs. The house's original window panes were manufactured at the Rensselaer Glassworks on nearby Glass Lake.

Continue to stop sign, and turn right on Eastern Union Turnpike (CR#49)



20. OLD TOWN BARN*

On the right is the former Sand Lake Town Garage, built as a work relief project in 1933, with materials repurposed from the former Troy & New England Railway powerhouse.

***SLHS marker site**



BROWN'S HOTEL. In 1820 Philip Scholer ran a tavern on this site. It burned in June 1827 and was rebuilt by James H. Barker in 1840. After Mr. Barker's death in 1881 it was purchased by the Brown Family. (New Crooked Lake History)

21. CROOKED LAKE HOTEL / OLD DALEY'S ON CROOKED LAKE

Across the water, up the lake, on the right, is the Crooked Lake Hotel. Beginning as a stage coach stop in 1780, in 1860 was rebuilt as Brown's Hotel. While Theodore Roosevelt was NY governor, Brown's was TR's family vacation headquarters. As the Crooked Lake Hotel, it became a popular restaurant and resort, and featured nationally-known jazz and "big band" performers (such as the Dorsey Brothers and Louis Prima) from the 1920s to the 1950s and hosted NBC Radio's national big band broadcasts. During Prohibition, bootlegger and gangster Legs Diamond (who had a summer house on Crystal Lake) was a frequent guest!

Turn left at stop sign, north on NY Route 43&66

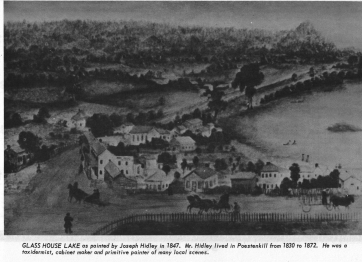


22. GLASS LAKE / GLASSHOUSE VILLAGE*

Glasshouse Village was established in the early 1800s as a complete town to meet the needs of the Rensselaer Glass Factory workers and included workers' and owners' homes, a school, stores, and a church. Window glass made here was installed in the White House in 1813. Sand Lake's Historic District starts at Glass Lake.

On the left, the original Glass Lake Methodist Church (constructed in 1833) burned and was replaced by the current structure in 1914, now the **Perry-Komdat Funeral Chapel**. *On the right, across the road* from the funeral parlor, "**Peaceville**", the green-shingled house (with the eyebrow windows) was built by Richard Knowlson, an early glassworks owner. The blue building, currently **Tighe's Bistro Americain**, was built in 1845 as "Mechanics Hall", a home for

workmen; it was converted into a hotel in 1860 and was later The Glass Lake Inn.



Joseph Hidley's painting "View of Glass Lake" depicts the village in the 1860s, including several historic buildings: the **District #8 school**, and the blue-shuttered **Benjamin Culver house** (built in 1788). The Rensselaer Glassworks was located adjacent to the current dam and bridge, the lake having been enlarged to support water power needs (*note: Glass Lake Road is currently closed*).

***SLHS Marker Site**

From Route 43 & 66 at Glass Lake, bear right and up the hill onto Schumann Road



23. SCHUMANN ROAD HISTORIC HOUSES

Of the 17 houses on Schumann Road today, 3 were built in the 1700s and 7 in the 1800s. The fourth house on the right (red saltbox, #11) is the 1790 **Frothingham House**, home of Major Thomas Frothingham, Revolutionary War veteran and one-time glassworks superintendent. Next door, at the top of the hill, the grand **Knowlson House**, was built in the Georgian style in the early 1800s and features 26 rooms, including a ballroom. Colonel Richard Knowlson operated the glassworks from 1825 to 1838.

The large gray house on the right was once the home of **Horatio Averill**, namesake of Averill Park. The Victorian structure (brown house) across the street was built in the 1880s by **Jennie Averill**,

purchased in 1918 by **Adam Schumann** owner of the Knickerbocker Ice Works in Brooklyn as a summer home.



At the stop sign, turn right onto Route 43 & 66.



24. ALBERT FOX MANSION*

Albert R. Fox, glassworks owner (1838 to 1853) and New York state senator (1848-49), built this Greek Revival home in 1847. In their time, the Fox Mansion and the Knowlson House were the two most valuable residential properties in Rensselaer County. From 1954 to 1972, the mansion housed Lillian Sproule's the Yesteryears Antique Doll Museum. Fox Mansion was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.

***SLHS Marker Site**



25. BROOKSIDE INSTITUTE

Next to Fox Mansion on the left is the one-time Brookside Institute, a school established by Fox son-in-law Harvey Boone on the family property in the 1860s.



26. LEWIS SLITER HOUSE

Across the road, the blue Greek Revival home with the “fan motif” in the front gable is the Sliter House, built 1825-30. Sliter’s Corners is the original name for today’s “Sand Lake Four Corners.”



27. ALONZO AINSWORTH HOUSE

On the left, at Cemetery Lane, this fine example of Second Empire architecture was built by Alonzo Ainsworth in 1873.

28. SAND LAKE UNION CEMETERY*

Established in 1841, in addition to the graves of many leading Sand Lake families (Fox, Knowlson, Gregory) and at least 75 Civil War veterans, the cemetery features table-style monuments, the gravesite of “Moscow the Civil War Horse”, and the graves of Dr. Smith Boughton (“Big Thunder” and leader during the Anti-Rent Wars) and Deputy Sheriff Willard Griggs who was killed in the line of duty during this conflict.

**SLHS Marker Site*

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29. TOWNE TAVERN / BERT WARREN’S BLACKSMITH SHOP (OPEN TODAY)

The building on the right, along the creek, was originally a blacksmith shop, later the Park Restaurant, and today’s Towne Tavern.



30. SAND LAKE MERCHANT / HORTON’S STORE / NASH’S STORE (OPEN TODAY)

On the left at the four corners. This 1830s structure began its life as Franklin Averill’s Store, and later Horton’s, was Nash’s Store (and the post office) from 1911 to 1978, and more recently a gift shop, a florist and a consignment shop. In 2021, Amanda Goyer and her husband Chris purchased and revived the building and opened the Sand Lake Merchant. With accompanying business are Gipfel’s Coffee and Lakebound Books, The Merchant continues to be a vital expression of Sand Lake history.

31. JIM COTTON’S ICE CREAM PARLOR*

Diagonally across Routes 43 & 66, on Taborton Road, the narrow, green building with the porch and storefront windows was built by local carpenter Jim Cotton’s as an ice cream parlor, operating from 1915 to 1931 and later converted to a private home, the only known remaining early 1900s parlor in New York State.

**SLHS Marker Site*

Turn left (west) on Route 43. Tour concludes at Sand Lake Center for the Arts

THANK YOU FROM SLHS!

The SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets on the monthly (most of the time). Please join us!