

**Glen Park, west side of Fourth Avenue above Main Street/M22 –**

Augustine W. Farr bought this property in transactions during 1880. In 1882, he deeded it to the Onekama Lumber Company, of which he was president; Farr and Charles Secor, treasurer of the Lumber Company, were both active in the development of the Glen, where the first bona fide resort in Manistee County rose and fell during the late 1800's. The springs on the property had "rare combinations of the curative and health-giving properties", as found in testing. Improvements were made to what was called in one brochure the "Onekaming Mineral Springs", when a camping and picnic ground were opened. In 1886, the Glen House hotel, accommodating one hundred guests and built at a cost of \$18,000, was opened by the Lumber Company. It was on the site of the home at the northwest corner of Fourth Avenue and Main Street. The different waters from the Springs, which were collected in tiles, were piped to the Glen House and bathhouses for consumption and for baths. The mineral waters were bottled even after the hotel burned in 1891. The iron pipes that led from the tiles still can be seen beneath the flowing waters today.

Although the property was not officially deeded to Onekama Township by Newton C. Farr until 1961, the paths and trails that lead over the brook, through the woods, and eventually among the Glen Springs for an enjoyable respite with nature, have been used by the public for many years.



**Glenwood Resort at 4604 Main Street/ M22, north side of Main Street/M22 –**

In 1944, Elizabeth Enos announced her retirement after forty years of operating the Glenwood Cottages, and later the Glenwood Resort. This complex included the two buildings (4594 and 4610 Main Street), one being on each side of what is currently The Glenwood Restaurant (4604 Main Street), which had been the dining hall of the resort after being moved to the property in 1924.

The Resort was eventually sold to James L. Sutherland. After becoming the Glenwood Lodge, it closed in the 1950's. The dining hall later became the Pepper Mill (closing in 1988) and then opened as The Glenwood in 1994.



# Onekama Downtown Historical Buildings & Sites

## Walking Tour 2021



Looking North at Main Street Between Portage and Mill Streets— Second Building from Left (One Story) Is School-Commercial Building; Second Building from Right on North Side of Main Street Is East Storefront of the Knuth Drug Store Building; at Right Edge of Photograph Is Truman Smith's General Store on South Side of Main Street; in Center Background Is 1910 Church of the Brethren on Mill Street.

*This self-guided walking tour is primarily based on a 95 page presentation compiled by Tom Gerhardt in May of 2008. There is also information contributed through a narrative of life in Onekama written by Herbert W. Schimke from his birth in 1923 through 1992 and left as a legacy to his four children. This is the first edition walking tour. The endeavor will be continued over the next decade to provide you with more definitive information about the history of the Onekama community by presenting additional tours that will highlight other aspects not included in this 2021 walking tour. We hope you will enjoy the journey and look forward for more to come in the future.*

## East-Section of Town from 8011 First Street to Baker Street

**MacBeth & Company 8011 First Street, east side of First Street/M-22** – A clipped corner of this building allowed vehicles to move under a canopy that existed in front when the Brown Lumber Company sold gasoline as well as lumber at this location, where a cheese factory had been. A building marked “lumber” is shown at this location on the 1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance map.

Brothers Daniel and Howard Deal bought the property in 1946 and operated the Square Deal Farm Store here. Byron and Steve Joseph, nephews of the Deals and also brothers, operated the business before it closed in 1986. Roger and Ann Smith then purchased the structure and began using it as an arts and antiques center under the name of “The Old Farm Store”. In 2004 it became MacBeth & Company, an upscale gift shop carrying unique merchandise.



**Blue Slipper Tavern 8058 First Street, west side of First Street/M-22** – The Blue Slipper Tavern has long reigned at the southwest corner of First and Main (M-22) Streets. This yellow-orange brick building is constructed of bricks made here in Onekama at the William Henry Kline brickyard. It is one of three buildings in Onekama constructed with local bricks from the Kline brickyard.

One source says the name Blue Slipper Tavern was inspired from the shape of the Onekama’s Portage Lake. If you look at an arial photo of the lake, it does indeed look like a slipper. Hans Hanson owned the saloon in the earlier years. Frank Thomas owned the tavern from the 1940’s into the 1970’s. In the early 2000’s it became the Blue Slipper Bistro for a time. The tavern is now the Blue Slipper Tavern.



**Farr Center 5283 Main Street, south side of Main Street/M-22** – The former Onekama Farm Bureau Building and land for the Farr Center were donated to the Village by Newton C. Farr in 1949. Farr made the donation in honor of his father, Marvin A. Farr; sister, Barbara Farr Chinnock; and uncle Augustine W. Farr, who was the first president of Onekama when Village Government was organized in 1891. Although a date for the original construction of the Farm Bureau Building has not been determined, an addition to the structure was announced in 1923 for the new poultry, egg, and cream buying station of this organization, which handled produce from local farms. The property was deeded to the Village in 1950 for use as general offices and a

council chamber, a firehouse, and a community center. Several extensions and renovations of the building have occurred, including the addition of a west wing in 1965 for the Onekama Branch of the Manistee County Library. This wing was rebuilt and rededicated in 1997. After the Fire department and Township offices moved, additional space was available for the Village.



**Empty Store Front formerly C.W Erickson Market 5122 Main Street, north side of Main Street/M-22** – In 1911, an ornamental cement block commercial building was built east of the stream that cut through the property for the Klug Meat Market. Members of the C.W Erickson family also operated



a market in this building from ca. 1917 to the early 1970’s and maintained the area along the stream as a garden to enhance the appearance of the Village. In 1937, J. Echoff of Manistee helped construct the fieldstone bridge. Arborvitae provided a background for this beauty spot and also shielded from view the slaughterhouse and smoke house that were operated on the back of the lot during the buildings use as a market.

**Onekama Apartments 5098 Main Street, north side of Main Street/M-22 at the corner of Main and Baker Streets** – The building was originally constructed in 1892 as the Maccabee Hall. It was to include a gallery, stage, kitchen, and anterooms at a cost of \$1,000. Adolph Schroeder later showed movies in this building. The Onekama Post Office resided in the west side of this building for some years and was moved to the new facility at 4861 Main Street in 1959. The Hall was purchased in 1966 by the owners of Onekama Supply Inc. and renovated in 1968.

It became known as the Townhouse Apartments and contained 6 apartments, 1 efficiency apartment, and 3 offices. The building was sold and is now known as the Onekama Apartments.





## Mid-Section of Town from Baker Street to 4800 block of Main Street

**Hand Stand Art Gallery/Studio 4968 Main Street/M22, north side of Main & M22** – As you continue your journey on M22, known as Main Street in the village, you will find between Brandt Street and Zosel Street on the north side of M22, a tall brick building. This building was constructed of the orange colored brick produced by the Kline brickyard in 1888 for Dailey and Hale to be used as a bank and exchange building. In 1921 it became known as the Masonic Building. The ground floor continued as a bank for many years with the upper floor used by the Masons for their meetings. This building currently houses The Hand Stand Art Gallery/Studio.



The next building on the same side of the street, which now is **Calloway Construction**, was originally a wooden structure known as Dr. Richmond's building. In 1946 it was torn down and a new building, known as Schimke Brothers Electric, was built. In 1969 that building was torn down to create a parking lot and a new building was erected with the name changing to Onekama Supply Inc. Onekama Supply inhabited the building and the site until 1986.



As you continue on to the corner of Main and Mill Streets you will see a white two story building. This was the **Grund House**, later to be known as the Hotel Onekama. For many years the local telephone switchboard, which was in service by 1914, was on the ground floor of this building. The building was purchased in 1945 by Bill and Winona Green and renovated into a home apartment and a beauty shop on the first floor and rental apartments on the second floor. In the vacant lot adjacent to this building there was a garden and an Artesian Fountain. Today it is an apartment building.



Continuing on Main Street after you cross Mill St. the building now housing the **Yellow Dog Cafe** (east side of the building) and **Patina** (west side of the building) was originally a meat market in 1895 on the east side of the building. The west side of the building was added later ca. 1919 and became Knuth's Drug Store with the owners living above the store. After Knuth's it became Ensign's Drug Store followed by Verne's Drug Store and Emporium. In 1986 it became Portage Lake Pharmacy. The west side of the building now houses Patina. The east side of the building has housed a



restaurant, doctor's office, antique shop, yarn shop, book store and interior-design studio over the years. The east side now is home to the Yellow Dog Cafe.

Across Main Street from Knuth's Drug Store was Truman Smith's General Store. It was a two story cement block building completed in 1908. Several additions have been added over the years to the west side of the building. The building has housed hardware, variety, appliance and lumber businesses. It is currently home to **Honor/Onekama Building Supply** and **Anchored Designs**.



## West-Section of Town from 4800 block of Main Street to west side of Fourth Avenue

**Thrift Shop 4830 Main Street, north side of Main Street/M22** – The one story building was moved from Old Portage Area and used as a school for younger children until 1908. After being utilized as a commercial building for a number of years it was renovated into the Thrift Shop, run by the Onekama Guild. The building is shown on the 1895 Sanborn Insurance Map.



### **Historical Marker, “The Portage Lake Region”, Onekama Village Park, south side of the 4700-4800 block of Main Street/M22**

– On May 8, 1871, almost occurring simultaneously with the opening of the channel, a United States Post Office was established at Portage, with a Government request that the name of the village be changed to “Onekama” to avoid confusion with other places also known as “Portage”. In 1880, A.W. Farr moved the steam-powered mill from Portage (which would now be in the Portage Park Resort) to the site that is the Village Park in today’s Onekama. Eventually, little was left of what came to be known as “Old Portage”, after several of the buildings had been moved to the new Village and others were left to disappear. The steam-powered mill became a part of the Onekama Lumber Company, which was organized in 1882.

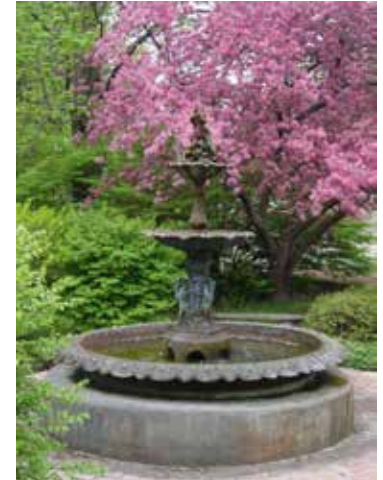
In 1888, the Manistee & North-Eastern Railroad completed the connecting link between Onekama and Manistee; the end of the line that entered the Village from the southeast and ran along the lake occurred near the depot that was at this location in what is now the Park. After serving as a farm store and a repair shop, the depot was removed from the scene in the early 1960’s and replaced in 1968 with the historical marker, “The Portage Lake Region”, through the efforts of Elsket Chaney and others.



**Memorial Fountain, Onekama Village Park, south side of the 4700-4800 block of Main Street/M22** – In 1951, the Portage Lake Garden Club had erected the Village Park this Victorian cast-iron fountain, which was dedicated during that summer to the men and women of the community who had served in the armed forces. This frontage of the Park on which the Fountain was

placed was leased by the Village until it was deeded to Onekama in 1960 by Newton C. Farr. The Fountain was originally one of a pair that had been placed in 1887 on the grounds of the Old Manistee County Courthouse, Third and Maple Streets in Manistee, a structure that was destroyed by fire in 1950.

The inside ribs of the center spill indicate that the designs were patented in 1871. The leaf and shell edging of the basin, the acanthus leaves spreading under the spills, and the stork and flag center pedestal are illustrated in these patents. A zinc merman riding a dolphin and blowing a horn is perched on sculpture rocks above the upper spill of the fountain. The Fountain’s water is supplied by the Park’s artesian well. The Memorial Fountain appears on both the National Register of Historic Places and the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites.



**Rotary Park, northeast corner of Main Street/M22 and First Avenue** – The granite marker originally was placed in 1953 at the Glenwood Resort, where Paul P. Harris (1868-1947), summered for many years. Paul Harris was the founder of Rotary in 1905. The Manistee Rotary Club placed the bronze marker and the granite marker in Rotary Park, when in 1991 the group dedicated the Park in



the memory of Harris. Rotary Club’s mission is “Service before self” they raise funds and give to people in need. Rotary operates worldwide.