

**19. Thomas Dewey Boyhood Home • 421 W. Oliver Street**

This Queen Anne house was built by William Bigelow, a pharmacist, in 1898. Thomas Dewey's parents purchased the house in 1914 when he was 12 years old. Dewey served as Governor of New York for 12 years and was twice a candidate for President of the United States. The house is recognized with a state historic marker.

⊗ 502 West Oliver Street, an 1890 Queen Anne house has a unique chimney and elegantly expressed corner orientation.

**20. Salisbury-Brewer House • 508 W. Oliver Street**

This unusual Italianate style house built by Ezekiel Salisbury in 1870, is turned sideways to fit the long narrow lot it sits on. The brackets under the eaves, cast iron balconies, stained glass and long side porches all add to the charm of the house, noted for its circular staircase. Ezekiel's daughter, Martha, married Burns Brewer, and it was owned by the Brewer family for 97 years.

**21. Graham-Bigelow House • 522 W. Oliver Street**

This house combines two distinctive styles into one: the front is a c.1890 Eastlake-inspired design, while the back, built c.1870, provides a French Second Empire style. It was built by Amos Gould for his sister, Viletta Gould Graham, who was the grandmother of Owosso's famous Impressionist painter, Frederick Frieseke. The Bigelow family acquired the house at the turn of the century.

⊗ The school bell on the northwest corner was given in 1868 to the Union School (now Central School) by John Bagley, who lived in Owosso as a teen and was Governor of Michigan 1873-77.

**22. Ebenezer Gould House • 419 N. Shiawassee Street**

This monumental Italianate home was built in 1860 for Ebenezer Gould, Amos Gould's younger brother and one of Owosso's first merchants and lawyers, who became famous as a Colonel in Michigan's "Fighting Fifth" during the Civil War. The house is embellished with an ornate belvedere and finial, large double brackets under the eaves and a two-story porch on the south side. The residence was converted into eight apartments in 1928 and is now known as the Todd house.

**23. Calvin Bentley House • 621 W. Oliver Street**

This 1920 English Tudor style house was built by Calvin Bentley, the son of A.M. Bentley I, who founded the Owosso Manufacturing Company (at one time the largest manufacturer of screen doors and windows in the U.S.).

**24. Dimmick-Greenway House • 713 W. Oliver Street**

For over a century the same family owned this massive red brick Italian Villa house. Built in 1876 by Guerdon L. Dimmick, who made his fortune in real estate, the residence is in pristine condition and displays arched windows, a dominant tower, brackets under the eaves and a varied roofline. At the home's west side, a charming brick carriage house (made into a lovely home) built in 1885 to house the family's well-known Palomino horses, combines a number of architectural styles.

**25. Alvin M. Bentley I House • 801 W. Oliver Street**

This house was built in 1886 as a twin of the house at 805 W. Oliver in the French Second Empire design. After a fire in 1909, the house was enlarged and changed in style. The family of Alvin Bentley I, founder of the Owosso Manufacturing Company, lived here from 1892-1936. His grandson, A.M. Bentley III, U.S. Congressman and philanthropist, bought back the house in 1954. The family sold the property in 1996.

⊗ Near 809 West Oliver, along the banks of the Shiawassee River, Henry Bolieu, the first white man in the area, built a leanto cabin around 1815. Bolieu was a French fur trader and married an Indian woman.

**26. Woodard Houses**

825, 900, 901, 905, 1000 W. Oliver Street

The three sons of Lyman Woodard, who founded Woodard Furniture and Owosso Casket Company, all lived on West Oliver. In 1920, Lee built his red brick Georgian Revival at 825; Fred's house at 900, which was later sold to the Mitchells of the Mitchell Corporation and Frank lived at 1000. The houses at 901 and 905 W. Oliver belonged to two of Lee's sons, Joseph and Russell, who with brother, Lyman, founded the famed wrought iron furniture still being manufactured in Owosso today.

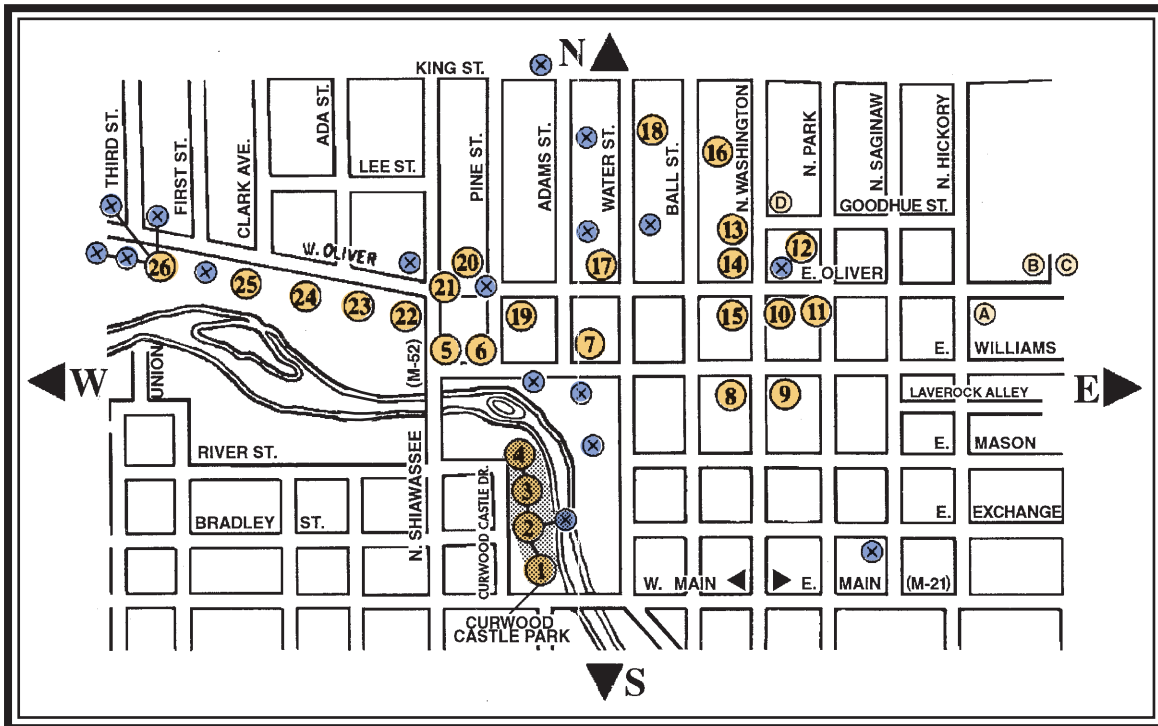
*End of Tour*

*Thank you for taking the time to appreciate the charming town of Owosso, Michigan.*



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*Take a step back in time and sample a few of Owosso's historical and architectural treasures. This mid-Michigan city, located between Flint and Lansing, has one of the most outstanding concentrations of nineteenth century residences in the state and visitors to Owosso will be astonished and charmed by the beauty of its older homes. Come discover this sleeping beauty!*

## CURWOOD CASTLE PARK

Located one block from Main Street (M-21) and Shiawassee Street (M-52)

### 1. Woodard Paymaster Building

The Woodard Furniture Company is Owosso's oldest industry dating back to 1866. At one time Woodard owned the largest casket company in the world and manufactured the wrought iron furniture that it is still famous for today. Its Paymaster Building now stands on the south end of Curwood Castle Park located near its original site.

### 2. Shiawassee Arts Center

The Shiawassee Arts Center located in Curwood Castle Park since 1972 serves as a showcase for the artwork of area, statewide and national artists. It also serves as a meeting, place, classroom and workshop area and arts information center. Open free to the public, Monday-Friday 10-5pm, Weekends Noon-4pm, SAC offers monthly art exhibits and the Frieseke Gallery displaying the work of the Owosso born, impressionist artist's paintings.

- ⊗ The Heritage Bridge connects the park area with downtown and was built in 1984.

### 3. Elias Comstock Cabin

This one room log cabin, built in 1836, was the first permanent residence in the settlement that became Owosso. It was the home of Judge Elias Comstock and his wife, Lucy Lamson, who were married for 59 years. The first church services (Baptist) were held in Comstock's Cabin. The cabin has been moved several times, but the original logs are still intact.

### 4. Curwood Castle

Author James Oliver Curwood built his replica of a Norman chateau in 1923 as a writing studio. Curwood wrote more than thirty adventure stories, some of which were made into movies, including the 1988 feature, "The Bear." Situated on a bend in the Shiawassee River, Curwood used the Castle until his death in 1927. It is now owned by the City of Owosso and is open as a museum, Tuesday-Sunday, 1-5pm. Admission: \$5/adult, \$2/children. Call 989.725.0599 for more information.

- ⊗ The Mitchell Amphitheatre for the Performing Arts sits directly across the river from the Castle.

Crossing the M-52 (Shiawassee Street) bridge looking south are the remains of the old Owosso Coal Mine and the Comstock Creek outlet to the river. Looking north are the flats where Chippewa Indians wintered protected by the hill.

### 5. James Oliver Curwood House • 508 W. Williams Street

This fine example of Georgian Revival style was built in 1910 for Owosso's famous author and conservationist, James Oliver Curwood.

It is said, Chippewa Chief Wasso, for whom Owosso is named, is buried somewhere between these houses.

### 6. Lyon-Seegmiller House • 502 W. Williams Street

This house was built around 1860 by Daniel Lyon, a highly skilled stone mason. Note the diagonal walk leading to a corner porch with double doors at each end. The northeast corner once sported a greenhouse room.

- ⊗ Between 401 and 415 West Williams Street is the beginning of the *James Miner River Walkway* that runs approximately three miles between Owosso and Corunna.
- ⊗ Note the 1890 Queen Anne house at 321 West Williams with curved and rounded porch framing and elegant stained glass.

### 7. John Osburn House • 318 W. Williams Street

This handsome Antebellum residence was built around 1860 by John Osburn. Osburn & Sons department store was the largest store in Owosso for many years.

### 8. First Congregational Church *Southwest corner Washington & Williams Streets*

Known as the "Stone Church" this Romanesque Revival structure was built in 1892 on the site of the congregation's first 1854 church. One of the beautiful, rare stained glass windows depicts preacher/teacher, John Elliott, preaching to the Indians in their native tongue. The side windows list Owosso's original settlers. Now priceless, the 1892 cost of the three windows was \$800.

### 9. Salem Lutheran Church *Southeast corner Washington & Williams Streets*

This large brick church was built in 1892 on the site of Owosso's first schoolhouse.

- ⊗ Owosso's finest example of high Victorian Gothic is the 1886 McCormick house at the southwest corner of Exchange and Saginaw Streets with its crockets along the roof ridge and multicolored slate roof.

### 10. Bruce Buckminster House • 426 N. Washington Street

This High Victorian Gothic house was built in 1883. The later addition of porch with pillars and porte-cochere were made by Buckminster's daughter and son-in-law in 1905.

### 11. William Fletcher House • 118 E. Oliver Street

William Fletcher came to Owosso in the fall of 1836 with his father, who built Owosso's mill race and first mills. Around 1874, he built this brick Tuscan Revival house with Italianate roof, brackets under the eaves, ocular windows and elaborate bay window. The long front porch was added much later. The third story tower finial is missing.

A tour of East Oliver Street and Goodhue Street is optional.

- ⊗ 317, 403 and 409 East Oliver offers a most unusual row of c.1855 Greek Revival residences.

### A. James Colby House • 406 E. Oliver Street

This flamboyant 1881 Stick-Style house, with patterned slate roof, large tower, jewel-like oriel, stained glass, iron finials and a Stick-style back porch, was built for the nephew of William Singer, inventor of the sewing machine.

### B. Charles Lawrence House • 417 E. Oliver Street

This 1907 Georgian Revival house, with hipped tiled roof, delicate window mullions, massive porch and slightly arched windows, is in pristine condition.

### C. Dr. Frank Hoyer House • 435 E. Oliver Street

This Second Empire residence was built in 1888 with a metal mansard roof, stained glass and a curved cantilevered porch by Dr. Hoyer, a dentist.

### D. Judge Josiah Turner House • 105 Goodhue Street

This classic c.1860 Greek Revival house remained in the Turner family for over 78 years.

## FAYETTE SQUARE

Located at the northeast corner of Oliver and Washington streets, the park was donated to the city of Owosso by B.O. and A.L. Williams in 1838 as Owosso's first park.

### 12. Christ Episcopal Church • Fayette Square

The cornerstone for this handsome Romanesque Building was laid in 1859 on land sold to the church for \$2 by Owosso's founders, the Williams Brothers. Enlarged in 1892 and made cruciform in design, it is the oldest church in Owosso still occupied by the same denomination.

### 13. James Osburn House • 527 N. Washington Street

This elegant 1893 Queen Anne was built by James Osburn, Owosso merchant. Note the corner tower, Palladian window in the attic and the wood carving on the side.

### 14. Amos Gould House • 100 W. Oliver Street

This Italianate residence ranks as one of the most impressive structures in Owosso. Amos Gould first built a wood frame house in 1843 just north of the present house (during the winter of 1906, the house was slid on the ice down the alley to 115 W. King St. where it stands today). In 1860 Amos built this house, (pictured) which he extensively remodeled in 1873 to the Italianate style.



*The Amos Gould House - 100 West Oliver Street*

This included adding the yellow brick facade, mansard roof and richly carved wooden detailing. Amos was Owosso's first mayor, a lawyer, banker, state senator and judge and a man with extensive real estate holdings and lumber investments (Gould City in the Upper Peninsula is named after him). Similar to his brother Ebenezer Gould's house, it stands on large, attractively landscaped grounds. The house is maintained by the Owosso Historical Commission.

### 15. St. John's United Church of Christ *Southwest corner Oliver and Washington Streets*

This dignified New England style church was built in 1856 by the Methodists and is the oldest church building still standing in Owosso. The building was sold to the present owners in 1894.

### 16. Williams Brothers Houses • 611 & 628 N. Ball Street

Brothers, Alfred L. and Benjamin O. Williams, were the founders of Owosso in the early 1830s. Their homes, built around 1836, are fine examples of the Greek Revival style. The house at 628 is one of the oldest frame buildings still standing in Owosso and has been owned by the same family for over 100 years. Both houses were moved many years ago from their original location on Ball and Oliver Streets.

### 17. Goodhue-Christian House • 302 W. Oliver Street

This splendid Italianate house was built around 1860 by Charles Goodhue, a prominent merchant with extensive land holdings. Ebenezer Dudley converted the house into apartments in 1886. Daniel Christian, founder of Christian's Department Store, at one time Owosso's largest and best known commercial establishment, restored it to a one-family residence. The "widow's walk" was removed long ago, but the large brackets and elaborate window enframements remain and later an ornate entrance was built on the front and a sunroom on the east side.

- ⊗ 604 N. Water Street is an 1868 Italianate residence in pristine condition: never painted, original porch and windows and beautiful brackets and trim under the eaves.

### 18. Frieseke House • 654 N. Water Street

Herman Frieseke built this house of the soft red bricks from his brick plant that were used in building so many houses in Owosso. Herman's son, Frederick, who grew up in the house, became the well-known Impressionist painter whom Owosso is proud to call another native son. The site is recognized with a state historical marker. Born in Owosso in 1874, Frieseke dedicated his painting, "Lady With The Sunshade" in 1926 to the City of Owosso in memory of his grandmother. It now hangs in the Shiawassee Arts Center.

**Note the following distinctive houses that played a part in Owosso's early history:**

- ⊗ **408 W. King St.** - a stately Italianate house built by Dr. Barnes for his daughter and son-in-law.
- ⊗ **652 N. Adams St.** - stately Italianate house built c.1871 by the Tillotson family, early Owosso merchants.
- ⊗ **520 N. Adams St.** - c.1887 Queen Anne house with each side different, owned by the Todd Family.