

**Medina Township**, part of the Connecticut Western Reserve, was first settled in 1814 by Zenas Hamilton. His family lived here alone for nearly two years, until they were joined by several families arriving from New England. Those settling in the Weymouth area in early 1817 built a log cabin which served as a school, church and meeting place. By the 1830s, it was a bustling community with farming, milling and timber industries and later, cheese making and quarrying. Other township settlements included Bagdad, Medina Center and Fenn's Corners. The township was incorporated in 1818.

**A** On Windfall Road just north of St. Rt. 18 is **Windfall Cemetery**. When the first settlers arrived in this area, a storm had felled many tall pines, facilitating the building of log homes and creating a name for the area. In the 19th century, Windfall was a community with its own schoolhouse and several farmsteads. The earliest grave in the cemetery dates from 1827. There are 80 gravesites here.

**B** At the corner of Nettleton and Grangers Roads is **Northropville School** built for \$150 on land donated by Nira Northrop in 1848. In 1854, there were 49 pupils in the tiny one-room schoolhouse. It served local students until 1922, then became a residence.

**C** Just west of the schoolhouse hidden in the trees to the left is the **private burial ground** of 13 graves of the pioneer Northrop and Nettleton families.

**D** The **Bagdad Road Bridge** was the site of a sawmill built in 1820 by James Warner and Stephen Sargent. There was an Underground Railroad stop in this area. It once had a church and general store.

**E** **Cook Road** is an area of natural beauty. The Rocky River runs along the west side. Originally, the Cook farm encompassed the entire east side of the road.

**F** **3116 Tompkins Road**. The small house at the point of Tompkins and Cook Roads was built by Zachary Dean in 1830. Dean owned the nearby mill and was county surveyor from 1850-56.

**G** On Cook Road between Tompkins and Old Weymouth is the **Cook Road Bridge**, the site of the first saw mill in the township, built by Lathrop Seymour and Timothy Doan in 1817. The water was fast moving until the Granger Ditch watering system diverted the water, and grist, saw and woolen mills stood here, as well as a quarry. The hill was originally much steeper (note the exposed layers of stone) and the road was called Christian Hill.

**H** The **Weymouth General Store** (3376 Old Weymouth) was built in 1850 to sell groceries, household and farm goods. The Weymouth post office, organized in 1830, was located here until it closed in 1905. Farmers brought dairy products here to be taken by wagon to markets in Cleveland. The store, operated as the Weymouth Pantry, closed in 1990. The watering trough to the right of the store was once in the middle of the road.

**I** **3344 Old Weymouth**. This is thought to be the oldest frame house in Medina County, built in 1818. Exposed beams and low ceilings reflect the early date. The tiny cellar has a hole allowing ground water to enter, keeping the area cool for fruit and vegetable storage.

**J** **3306 Old Weymouth**. Gothic Revival house built by William Harrison Seymour in 1851. He was one of Eliza Northrop's first students in 1817 and one of the first to be baptized in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 1817. His brother Herschel Bannock Seymour was a 49er who died in the Gold Rush. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**K** On Remsen Road between Old Weymouth and Myers is **Weymouth Cemetery**. The earliest graves were placed on the remains of an old Indian burial ground at the west end of the village. Those graves were moved here in 1826. Eliza Northrop Barnes, the first teacher in the township, is buried here.

**L** **3305 Myers Road**. This house was formerly a one-room schoolhouse from 1840-1872, attended by children from parts of Medina, Hinckley, Granger and Brunswick townships. It was later used as a stone carver's workshop and is now a home.

**M** **Weymouth School** (3314 Myers Road). The original part of this building was a two-room school from 1925 until 1956. It then housed Ohio's first tax-supported school for special needs children. It is the home of the Weymouth Preservation Society, community room and local history museum. [www.weymouthpreservationsociety.com](http://www.weymouthpreservationsociety.com).

**N** **3313 Myers Road**. This was a one-room schoolhouse built in 1829. By 1840 the community needed a larger school and this became a house. The porch and side addition were added in 1935.

**O** **3388 Old Weymouth Road**. The two-story building was built in 1859 by the Weymouth Temperance Union, a group of local men who were concerned about the destructive power of alcohol on society. In 1872, they rented the lower floor to the Weymouth school, which eventually took over the entire building, serving 1st through 8th grades until 1925.

**P** **Weymouth Church** (3398 Old Weymouth), the oldest church building in the county, was built in 1835 as the First Congregational Society of Weymouth. It is listed on the national Historic American Buildings Survey. The portico and belfry were added in 1853. Before the Civil War, the members took a strong abolitionist stand and served the Underground Railroad.

**Q** Weymouth Road on the left. The future site of **Rita M. Holt Nature Preserve**, named for a long-serving public servant. The land was originally part of the Blakeslee farm and later the site of Siman's nursery. The park consists of 34 acres, with a variety of wildflowers native to the area. A beautiful section of the North Branch of the Rocky River runs through the park. Future plans include hiking trails, a picnic pavilion and a family baseball field.

**R** **3721 Weymouth Road**, home of Gad Blakeslee, one of the township's original pioneers. The architect and builder was his son, Burritt Blakeslee, who built many homes in the area.

**S** On the corner of Fenn and Weymouth Roads on the right is **Blakslee Park**, home of the Medina Township's Athletic Field Complex and the Hometown Heroes Memorial.

**T** **3756 Fenn Road**. Burritt Blakeslee first came to the township in 1816. He was a skilled carpenter who built many local houses in the area. His first house was lost in a fire, and he built this replacement in 1855. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

**U** Fenn Road at off Weymouth is the **Medina Center Cemetery**, also known as Medina Township Cemetery, Fenn Road Cemetery and Bagdad Cemetery, for a tiny hamlet at nearby Bagdad. There are 307 interments, many of early settlers. Among the earliest graves are the early settlers of the Hamilton, Blakeslee, Welton, Worden, Warner, Pierce, Nettleton and Stoddard families.

**V** On the right is the **Warner House** (3825 Fenn Road). James Warner, owner of the mill at nearby Bagdad, built this house in 1826 at a value of \$420. It was the largest house in the township. Later, some of the property was given for the town hall and cemetery.

**W** On Fenn Road at Huffman Road, is the area that was known as Medina Center, the geographical center of the township. **Medina Township Hall** was built by John Hatch for \$960 in 1869. There was a one-room schoolhouse across Fenn Road. There were so many farms along Fenn Road that it was known as Silo Avenue.

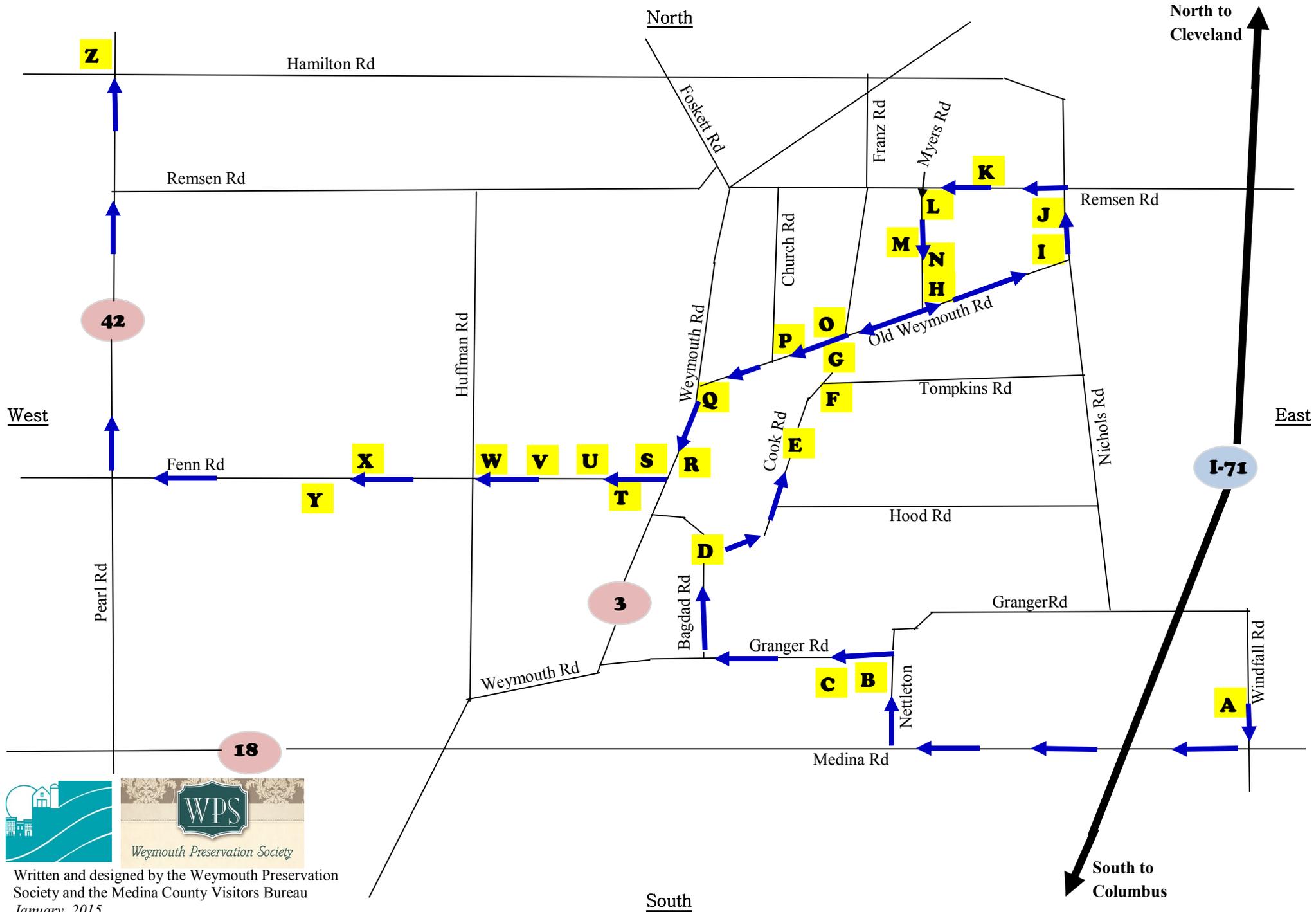
**X** At **4255 Fenn Road** is the large brick Greek Revival house that originally stood across Fenn Road on land traced back to Elijah Boardman. It was built by settler John Clark. In 1830 his son, Francis B. Clark, was born here. He trained as a doctor, but returned to manage the farm when his father died. He served many years as township clerk and trustee, county auditor and treasurer. Francis's son, Forrest W. Clark, kept the local weather records for the U.S. government, never missing a day from 1895 to 1940.

**Y** **4266 Fenn Road off Rivendale Drive**. Medina Marsh, home to an active blue heron rookery. This 126-acre high-quality wetland complex in the floodplain of the West Branch of the Rocky River is part of a large corridor of protected land. The Conservation Center also serves as a visitor center and the Medina field office of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. There is a .5 mile mowed trail.

This area at Route 42 at Hamilton Road is known as **Hamilton's Corners**. It was settled by Zenas and Betsey Hamilton and their children. They arrived in 1814 and settled in a cabin on lot 22. Zenas's son, Matthew, was the first child born in the township on June 9, 1815. There are 83 gravesites in the Hamilton Corners Cemetery, dating from the 1820's.

# Medina Township Historical Driving Tour, Medina County

As you drive throughout Medina County - be alert. We are still a rural community and have blind corners and farm equipment on the roads. *Drive safely.*



Written and designed by the Weymouth Preservation Society and the Medina County Visitors Bureau  
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