

Greece Historical Society
HISTORIC HOMES TOUR



Sunday, August 5, 2001
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Rain or Shine

Ticket Price: \$10/12

Presented by
The Greece Historical Society
in cooperation with the
Town of Greece
Historic Preservation Commission

CREDITS

Thank you to all the host/hostesses and house captains who have given so generously of their time and talents to make each house tour a special event.

Historic Homes Tour Committee

Program Coordination	<i>Lorraine Beane Vi White</i>
Publicity	<i>Merrilyn Smith Carline Wiley</i>
Refreshments	<i>Greece Historical Society</i>
House Captains	<i>Scott Wiley, Coordinator Betty Jean Anderson Roger Boily John Geisler Maysie Goodreau Janet Selke Vi White</i>
Ticket Sales	<i>Green Acre Farm & Nursery 3456 Latta Road Faris Pharmacy 2050 Latta Road VanPutte Gardens 136 North Avenue</i>
Parking	<i>George Smith</i>
House Portraits	<i>Tracie Doerner</i>

Historic Homes Tour Ticket/Guide

Research/Copy	<i>Gloria Latragna</i>
Photography	<i>John Geisler</i>
Design & Layout	<i>Gina DiBella</i>
Printing	<i>Town of Greece</i>

TOUR INFORMATION

In order to view all homes in the allotted time, please feel free to visit the homes in any order you choose. (See map on page 23.) If you see a line at a particular stop you may want to move on to another location and return later. This will allow the guides in each house to explain the building's history without being rushed. It will also make the tour more enjoyable for you. At all times remember that the owners of these homes have put a great deal of effort and time to make their home comfortable and presentable for your pleasure. Please respect this by following the guidelines listed below.

- Children under 12 years of age are not encouraged to take the tour.
- All tour goers must have a brochure/ticket that will be marked as they enter each of the historic homes on tour.
- Shoe covers will be provided to all tour goers. If you prefer, you may remove your shoes instead and walk through each home in your socks (no bare feet). Low heel walking shoes should be worn to protect the terraces and lawns.
- No smoking is allowed on any part of the property.
- Please do not bring food or beverages into the homes.
- Absolutely no photography is allowed while on the tour.
- The Historical Society of Greece and the Historical Preservation Commission assume no responsibility for injuries or loss of property to persons on the tour.
- Rest rooms are not available in the homes. Please find facilities within the town or at the Greece Historical Center and Museum located at 595 Long Pond Road.
- Parking: Please see page 4 for details and follow the directions of the attendant on the premises.

***Refreshments will be available
throughout the tour at the
Greece Historical Center and Museum
595 Long Pond Road.***

TOUR PARKING

Shearman House

550 Latona Road

Latona Office Campus

Parking is available throughout the campus.

Mother of Sorrows Original Church

1787 Latta Road

At the corner of Mt. Read Boulevard

Park in the Community Education Center lot.

Pearson-Rogers House

1314 English Road

Between Fetzner & Long Pond Roads

on the north side of the street

*Park on site to the **LEFT** of the driveway.*

Rowley-Liotta House

655 North Greece Road

On the west side, just south of Latta Road

Parking is available across the street

in the Precision Power lot.

Rickman-Rialdi House

799 Long Pond Road

Across from Athena Middle/High School

Park across the street at Athena.

Larkin-Beattie-Howe House

Greece Historical Center & Museum

595 Long Pond Road

On the west side, just north of Latta Road

*Handicapped parking is available on the pavement,
all others should park on the lawn.*

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Greece Historical Society's 2001 Historic Homes Tour!

You are about to view six homes and buildings that they have been preserved for the future while meeting the needs of today.

The homes and buildings selected for today's tour have been graciously adapted to meet the needs of their present owners, but have not been restored to their original condition. While maintaining the character and feeling of a 19th-century house, the owners have carefully preserved as much of the original structure as possible.

Every building tells a story. Through the years these houses have experienced changes that accommodated their owners' personal preferences. In viewing the changes made to these buildings, try to imagine the various lifestyles of the people who lived, worked, or worshiped in them over the past 100-plus years.

Greece Historical Center & Museum

595 Long Pond Road, Rochester, NY 14612

Museum Hours:

Sundays 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Group Tours by Appointment

Call (716) 225-7221

SHEARMAN HOUSE

550 Latona Road



550 Latona Road, also known as the "House That Zack Built," was moved from its original location at 1777 Ridge Road to the present site in 1968.

Zaccheus Colby, a prominent Greece farmer, built this 10-room, pink Dutch brick, Italianate-style farmhouse in 1855. In 1872, Mr. Colby sold the house and property to his brother-in-law, Abner Shearman. The Shearman family continued to reside in the house until 1970.

Having stood proudly for 113 years, the house was in danger of being demolished due to progress. The construction of the highway now known as Interstate 390 was proposed for part of the Shearman property. When final plans for the highway access road were presented to Suzanne Shearman, the decision to save the beloved homestead was made. In 1968, at the cost of \$75,000, Miss Shearman had the house moved from Ridge Road West to the southwest corner of the property on Latona Road. This was no easy task. The house had to be cut in half, moved on a flatbed, and set on a new foundation.

Upon the death of Suzanne Shearman in 1970, the house was sold to the Bierworth family. Some structural additions were made to the east section of the house to accommodate a family of five children.

The Wegman Companies, Inc., a firm specializing in real estate and homes for the elderly headed by Philip Wegman, purchased the property in 1979 and established its headquarters in the Shearman House. The current owners have made every effort to preserve the building's architectural integrity, making very few changes to the house except for decorating.

As you approach the house, notice that the main building and the wings still retain their original design. During the restoration process following the move, the northwest porch was enlarged and now extends out from the main structure about three feet. The square, chamfered columns and pilasters have been retained. The second story windows retain their historic, louvered, wood shutters. The front entrance porch features square, chamfered columns, and curved brackets.

Although this elegant home now serves as office space, you can easily see how much attention has been given to maintain the elegance of an early Greece Homestead. As you enter the house, take notice of the elaborate curved staircase. Also take a minute to observe the many fireplaces with marble mantels. Notice the ornate moldings and woodwork, all original to the house.

The Shearman House has been fortunate in the past 146 years. Only three families have owned this large home and each of them has been conscious of its historic significance. Our compliments to Edwin and Philip Wegman who realized the importance of this beautiful historic structure and made every effort to adapt their needs to the continued preservation of this house.

MOTHER OF SORROWS CHURCH

Church in the Woods

1785 Latta Road



This Romanesque Revival-style building was built in 1859 by the Irish settlers of the Paddy Hill community under the leadership of Felix McGuire. Architect Edward Warner incorporated red brick with buff brick trim for the main part of the church. The tower, completed in 1878, is constructed of red brick with limestone trim. The bell in the steeple is still operable. A statuary niche, in the west wall of the tower, was designed for the statue of the church patron saint. In 1898 the marble statue of Our Mother of Sorrows, designed by

John O'Brien of Baltimore, was placed in the niche.

Doors and windows are round-arched and many contain 19th-century stained-glass windows donated by members of the parish. The original main front entrance on Mt. Read Boulevard has a gable-roofed portico. The doors were replaced with plate-glass windows. Above the entrance vestibule, set within a slightly recessed, round-arched panel, is a large brick cross. Alterations to the main entrance were only a fraction of the changes that took place as the building was transformed from a religious house of worship to an educational facility. The Greece Public Library occupied the building from 1969 to 2000. Today the Greece Central School

District subleases it from the Town as offices for its Community Education Center. The building is still owned by Mother of Sorrows Parish.

The interior has experienced radical alterations since 1969 when it was adapted for use as a library. Two matching staircases were added to the southeast and northwest for access to the balcony that was created as a second level. This spring, the open, spacious nave was subdivided for use as office space. In renovating the building for its use, the school district was sensitive to what remains of the historic interior and did not construct any permanent walls. The ceiling with its cove cornice and the stained-glass windows with their vibrant red, blue and yellow glass and original trim, are all that remain of the early interior of the church. The pews, statuary, and other furnishings, as simple as they were, have been lost in time. Take note of the names that appear on many of the stained-glass windows: Rev. J.O. Maurice, Fleming, Larkin, Beaty, Gallery, and Brown. These names are a good representation of the early founding families of the Paddy Hill Community who contributed to the building of the first Roman Catholic Church in Greece.

Cemetery:

Take a walk through the old section of the cemetery and step back in time. Typical of 19th- and early 20th-century funerary art, the head stones date from 1823 to post-World War II. To learn the names of the founding families and descendents of Paddy Hill one only needs to read the stone markers. The majority of the stones date from the 1870s to the 1890s. Stones prior to 1900 all bear Irish names. Nearly all markers are crafted in granite or limestone. The majority bear the willow motif with only one marker exhibiting the urn motif.

A large granite cross in the cemetery, south of the former church, marks the site of the first little frame church, built by the Irish settlers in 1829 on land donated by Nicholas Read. In 1859, St. Ambrose Church, more favorably known by the parishioners as "The Church In The Woods," was moved to make room for the construction of the new brick church.

PEARSON FARM-ROGERS HOUSE

1314 English Road



This early-Victorian farmhouse is an example of how well 19th-century homes were constructed. Built in 1871 by George Quinn, this home has been lived in by several families over the past 130 years.

The most familiar family to have owned this house was the Pearson Family. The Pearson Fruit Farm consisted of 100 acres when purchased in 1925. An additional 100 acres were added and farmed until 1964. The third generation of the Pearson family continues to farm today in different locations in Greece and Hilton.

One of many homes on the farm, this house served as home to the hired-hand. He and his family lived here from approximately 1929 until the late 1960s. Originally, the house had only five rooms.

The Rogers purchased the house in 1982 and immediately found the need to update the amenities and create more livable space. Over the past 18 years the house has experienced an extensive conversion to a comfortable 10-room country home. Many of the original features no longer

exist. While the windows were replaced for heating purposes, their sizes remain the same. All the interior doors were replaced and finished to compliment the characteristic of a farmhouse. The original attached garage was incorporated into the home and an addition added to the west side. The front door of the house on the south elevation was moved a few feet to the west to create a center entrance focus. The original stairway to the second floor was eliminated and a new center entrance staircase built into the front foyer. All the floors were redone with parquet oak hardwood or wall-to-wall carpeting. The attic was converted into a lovely bedroom. The original bathroom was upgraded and two additional full baths were added.

The house stands on an 18-inch thick fieldstone foundation. Some evidence of the location of the cistern remains in the cellar. Most of the cistern walls have been reincarnated as a garden wall on the east side of the house.

Enter the east side of the house into the family room. This was once the attached garage, conveniently to the left is the kitchen. The addition on the west was designed to accommodate the Rogers extra-large dining table. A feature unique to this room is the full wall cupboards that store the family collection of dishware and allow serving space for large parties. Large windows on the north and west walls face onto the patio and afford a view of the manicured three-plus acres surrounding the house.

Returning to the foyer you will notice the lovely cherry-stained entranceway with its attractive open staircase to the second and third levels. This west wing of the house is the most original part to remain. The living room to the west and the birthing and dying room have not been altered. The original steps to the second floor once stood between the living room and the bathroom. Across the hall is another original part of the house. Once used as a kitchen and a dining room, today this is Mr. Rogers study [not available for the tour].

Located in the foyer is an antique corn grinder. The Rogers are not collectors of antiques, but they found this piece to be

a complement to the house's early history. Ascending the steps, you will arrive on the second floor. The master bedroom suite was created over the attached garage with a full bathroom and dressing area. This room has windows on the east and west walls, allowing for a wonderful view of the farm, as well as a fresh lake breeze.

Continue to the third level. To the east is the original attic, which is now a lovely bedroom with walk-in closets. West of the landing is again part of the original house. A hallway runs alongside what was the stairway with a bedroom to the south. A small reading area or playroom for children is located where the original staircase landing was.

As you exit the front door notice the original fieldstone well to the east of the house. For safety purposes it is now kept covered. The well is in operating condition and used to water the gardens and lawn.

This remodeled 1871 farmhouse reflects the personal tastes of Isabel and Bill Rogers. The earth tone colors throughout the house along with the tasteful decorations create a comfortable country atmosphere. The welcome sign in this home truly reflects the personalities of its owners.

ROWLEY-LIOTTA HOUSE

655 North Greece Road



This unassuming, white-frame, Vernacular-style house is one of the most attractive, well-maintained homes in the North Greece hamlet.

Samuel and Elisabeth Rowley built the house in 1871. It remained in the Rowley/Lockner family until 1924. For the next 60 years it changed ownership several times. Dan and Ursula Liotta purchased the house in 1984 and have strived to maintain the character typical of the 19th century while adapting it to the lifestyle of a family with two teenage sons. The colors throughout are variations of rose, blue, and green.

The main entrance was relocated to the long side porch on the north elevation. As you approach the door, a wonderful feeling of "porch-sitting" comes over you. Once inside, a large hardwood foyer welcomes you and leads you into the family room. The brick fireplace on the west wall beckons you to the hearth to cozy up with a hot toddy and a good book, as owners may have done in the early days. The furnishings in this room are a mix of modern and period pieces.

Ned and Joyce Crislip, who owned the home until 1978, added the long side-porch entrance, foyer, one-story family room, and single-car garage to the existing house in 1966. Notice the beveled glass bay window in the family room. Mr. Crislip retrieved it from an old church.

The country farmhouse kitchen off of the foyer remains in its original location and is open to the two-story portion of the family room, which serves as the homework/eating area. But watch your step! The change in kitchen's floor level occurred as the owners worked to maintain as much of the original floor plan as possible.

You will step back in time as you walk from the kitchen into the elegant, formal living room, which was part of the original house. The soft colors create an excellent setting for the family collection of period furnishings dating from the 1930s.

The enclosed front porch off the living room reflects back to a time when family members may have gathered to relax and chat with neighbors as they strolled by North Greece Road. On the dining room table are 1925 photographs that show the original porch. The white wicker table and settee currently in the porch, give a sense of having been frozen in time, back to when folks enjoyed the slower pace of country living. The porch is now used by the Liotta family as a sitting/exercise room.

The dining room, decorated in variations of blues, is located directly opposite the living room on the southeast side of the house, and is also part of the original house. The antique dining room set and other family pieces are tastefully arranged. The area rug, draperies, and shades complement the room and create a desire to linger comfortably after dinner. Notice the attention given to family photos, a style of decorating typical of the early farmhouse.

The small area off the dining room at the base of the staircase serves as an office area. The design of the staircase is typical of a 19th-century farmhouse. At the top of the stairs are the two bedrooms original to the house, facing north and east. The rooms were recently redecorated for the Liotta boys,

Steven and Marc. The hallway overlooking the family room, plus the full bath, exercise room, and master suite, with two huge walk-in-closets, were added on by the Liottas in 1988. A photo album showing the construction is on the dining room table.

The décor of the second floor is a blend of the old and new, with an emphasis on colors to coordinate with the first floor. Please take note of the wedding invitation on the dining room table, which was found in a wall during the 1988 construction:

***Emma L. Phelps to Herbert D. Rowley
October 3rd 1883 in North Greece, New York***

The Liottas have used a great deal of ingenuity in transforming the needs of a 21st-century family into their 19th-century farmhouse. To accomplish this, they have incorporated styles and furnishings that would have spanned the lifetime of the home. Our compliments to Dan, Ursula, Steven and Marc Liotta for preserving the dignity of this lovely early North Greece home.

RICKMAN-RIALDI HOUSE

799 Long Pond Road



Arthur Edwin Rickman and his father purchased this farm and property in 1864. History passed on by the Rickman family indicates that the house, possibly built in the 1840s, was on the property at the time of purchase. The Rickman family farmed the property for 112 years. Fruits, vegetables, wheat, barley, and oats were the mainstays, however, cows, horses and other animals were also raised on the farm. Across the street from the house, where Athena Middle and High Schools now stand, were the strawberry fields, the last of the produce to be farmed. Rickman Farms were proud to be the first farms in the area to supply Beechnut with fruits and vegetables for the making of baby foods.

The house as you view it today has experienced many changes through the years. The original structure, built on a fieldstone foundation, has remained the same dimensions. However, the interior space has differed. Two major remodeling projects have taken place. The original house as of 1864 was a side-by-side, up-and-down, two-family home. It remained home for two Rickman families until the late 1980s. The elder parents resided in one section of the house while a son and his family resided in the other section. Five generations have lived in this house. The last member of the

Rickman family to reside in the house was Agatha Rickman, wife of "Judge" Arthur Rickman, former Town of Greece Justice of the Peace. Mrs. Rickman remodeled the house in the 1960s. The home changed from a side-by-side double to an up-and-down double. Later it was converted into a one-family house.

As you approach the stone front porch be aware that until the 1960s it was enclosed with small square glass windowpanes. Many an evening, during the cooler weather, the family enjoyed gathering here to chat about the day's events.

Enter the front door into the lovely dining room. This was originally the receiving room or winter kitchen and gathering place for the north section of the house. Although the home has always had back-to-back fireplaces on this wall, the only original feature that remains today is the iron arm within the hearth for cast iron kettles. To the backside of this fireplace is the comfortable living room with an adjoining fireplace. Across the hall from the living room is a hallway that leads to rooms that were once part of the south section. The first door on the right leads to a bedroom; it was once the original kitchen. The room to the left was the original living room. Today it serves as a mini-studio for the owner's mother. Judge Rickman resided in this section of the house with his wife and two sons. If only walls could talk... when a policeman would knock on the door (now a window) to meet with the "Judge" with an offender in tow the family would have to leave the room until the situation had been dealt with.

As you return to the dining room you will pass a door on the left that leads to the bedrooms on the second level. Off the hallway leading to the rear of the house is a pantry created during one of the remodelings. Today this is the laundry room. As you enter the large, remodeled kitchen with painted knotty pine cupboards, think back to a time when it was common for every farmhouse to have a summer kitchen. The summer kitchen was used during the warmer weather to prepare family meals and to process fresh farm produce for winter consumption. The door to the north leads to an enclosed porch, originally the milk room. Today you can still walk down the 19th-century stone steps leading to the backyard.

To the south of the kitchen is another enclosed sun porch. Prior to the 1960s this was an open porch and used by the family on a daily basis as they went to the well for water. Take a minute to read the scribbled inscription in the concrete left by Judge Rickman's young sons: *Bob & Dick 1942*. Drilled in 1942 and still in use today, it is not the original well for the property. When Long Pond Road was widened, the original hand-dug well was destroyed to make room for the southbound lane. The privy stood at the end of the path until 1945 when plumbing was brought into the house.

At the southeast corner of the house notice the stone stoop that still remains even though the door into the house is now a window. A large cluster of stone on the lawn is all that remains of the outdoor fireplace used for gatherings. Today, the family prefers to gather at the rear of the property where the creek creates a tranquil setting.

The red outbuilding that can be seen in the backyard of the home next door [please do not go onto the neighbors' property] was the first office space supplied by the Town of Greece for "Judge" Rickman when appointed to the position of Justice of the Peace. He held this position from 1932 until 1964. Newspaper articles tell us that his officiating was fair and just. His sentencing for youthful offenders was highly praised.

Early photos show that attached to the house was the original carriage barn with tack room and woodshed. Today it functions as a two-car garage. Notice the hand cut beams.

The red barn just north of the house is one of many that stood on the property until the late 1950s. Notice the hand-hewn and pegged beams. This barn was used for storing and packing of farm produce.

The current owner, Carla Rialdi, has taken a careful, unhurried approach to projects planned for the future. She hopes to regain the home's early character while adapting it to her family's needs. This beautiful home has a great deal of history and is fortunate to have an owner interested in maintaining its heritage.

LARKIN-BEATY-HOWE HOUSE

Greece Historical Center and Museum

595 Long Pond Road



***You are invited to tour
the Greece Historical Center and Museum
Refreshments available.***

Today this beautiful Vernacular-style farmhouse functions as the home of the Greece Historical Society and Museum. However, it began as a simple two-and-a-half story farmhouse in 1852. The original site for this home was on the southwest corner of Latta Road and Greece Center Road (known today as Long Pond Road). The house was actually moved twice. The first time was after 1924 when F. M. Beattie had it removed from its foundation, placed on oak timbers, and rolled south on the property to a new foundation. It is believed that the house was moved to avoid the noise created by "noisy neighbors" from the tavern located just to the east of the intersection. The final move was in 1988 when it was placed on its present site at 595 Long Pond Road. This time the house was removed from its foundation, placed on a flat-bed, and rolled to its present location.

As you enter through the main entrance door from the front porch you will find yourself in the receiving area. Your first view will be the beautiful staircase and landing with a huge multi-pane window that overlooks the west lawn. To the right and left you will notice large matching arches that frame the entrance to the living room and dining room. The living room, or parlor as it was called, is furnished in the periods from the 1880s to the 1940s. Although the fireplace mantel is not the original, a member of the Society reproduced it from an old photograph. An enclosed porch off the living room serves as a Gift Shop for the Historical Society. Feel free to stop and shop. Return to the receiving room and enter the dining room. Many town and school meetings have been held in this comfortable room. The well-detailed and well-crafted dining room furniture is on loan from a society member. Pause for a few minutes to enjoy a bit of refreshment served by our hospitable society members. The kitchen is to the north and is typical of the 1940s. Continue into the museum section of the building. Here you can enjoy a walk through Greece history.

NOTES

THE GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1969, 25 Greece residents came together at the Mitchell Road Library. Their objective was to establish an organization to collect, preserve, and share items pertaining to local history. By 1971 the Historical Society of Greece had grown to 150 members, and in September of that year it received a provisional charter from the New York State Board of Regents.

Today the Greece Historical Society has an Historical Center and Museum located in the former Larkin-Beattie-Howe House at 595 Long Pond Road, adjacent to the Town Hall. The Society's mission is the education of all ages through exhibits and research, and "to preserve the past for the future." Trained docents offer tours to the public and school groups throughout the year. Tours and appointments can be scheduled by calling 225-7221.

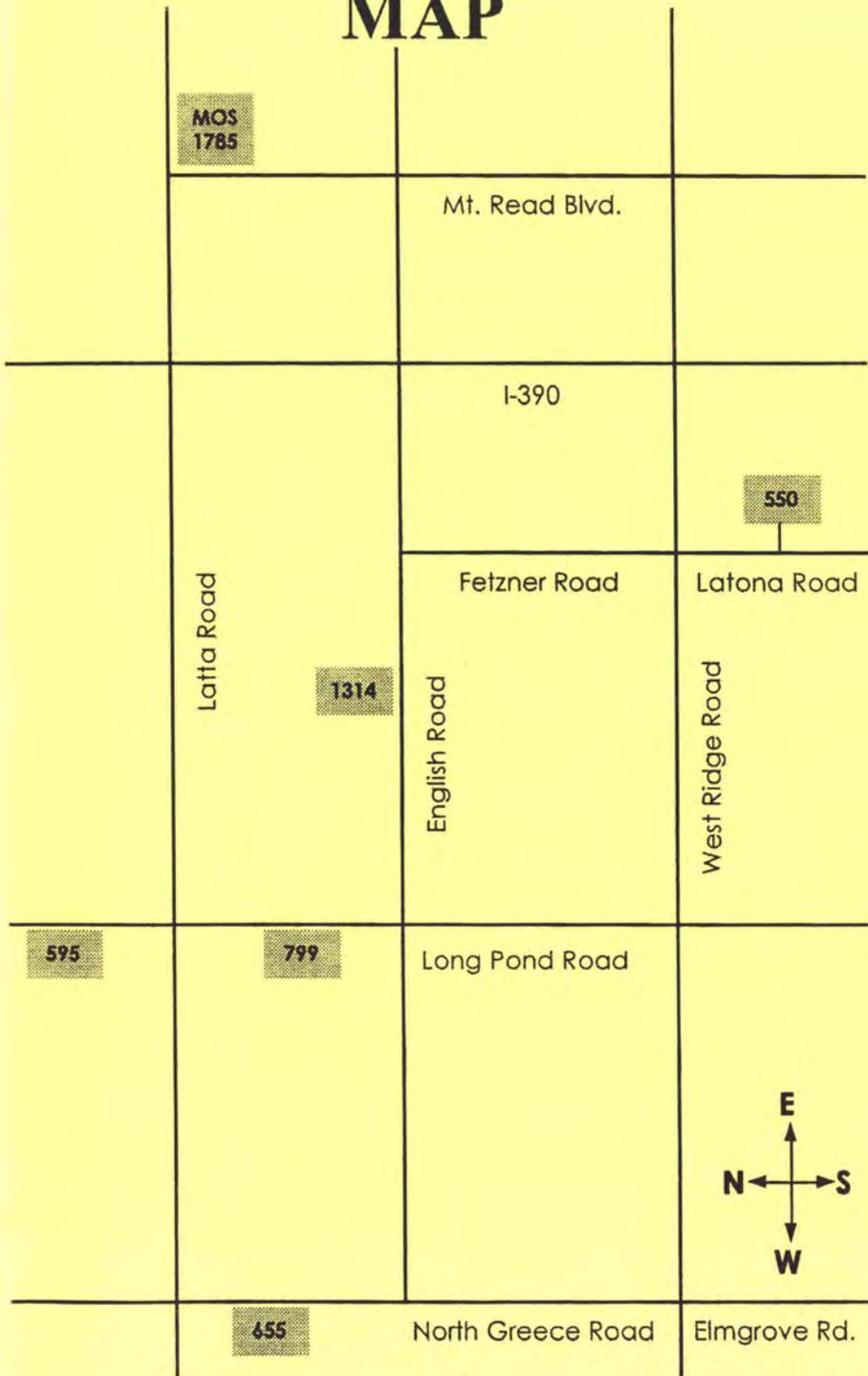
THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND ORDINANCE

In October 1997, the Greece Town Board adopted a preservation ordinance to safeguard the heritage of the Town. The ordinance was intended to foster, encourage, and advise the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of structures. While the ordinance protects designated properties, a building or property can only be designated if the property owner agrees to the designation. The Town of Greece has two locally designated landmarks — The Covert-Brodie-Pollok House at 978 North Greece Road and the Rigney-Feeney House at 1885 Latta Road.

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is appointed by the Greece Town Board. All members are Greece residents who have demonstrated interest in or knowledge of historic preservation. The HPC is responsible for designating landmarks, promoting the preservation of landmarks within the town, and increasing public awareness of the value of preservation through public education programs.

For more information on the HPC or landmark designation, contact the Department of Development Services (723-2432) at the Greece Town Hall.

MAP



LIST OF HOUSES

_____ **Shearman House**

550 Lafona Road

_____ **Mother of Sorrows Original Church**

1785 Latta Road

_____ **Pearson Farm-Rogers House**

1314 English Road

_____ **Rowley-Liotta House**

655 North Greece Road

_____ **Rickman-Rialdi House**

799 Long Pond Road

_____ **Larkin-Beattie-Howe House**

*Greece Historical Center & Museum
595 Long Pond Road*

This booklet is both a guide and a ticket.
Please present it at each house visited.
Houses may be visited in any order.