

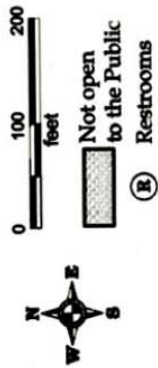
Historic Charlton Park

Volunteer Manual

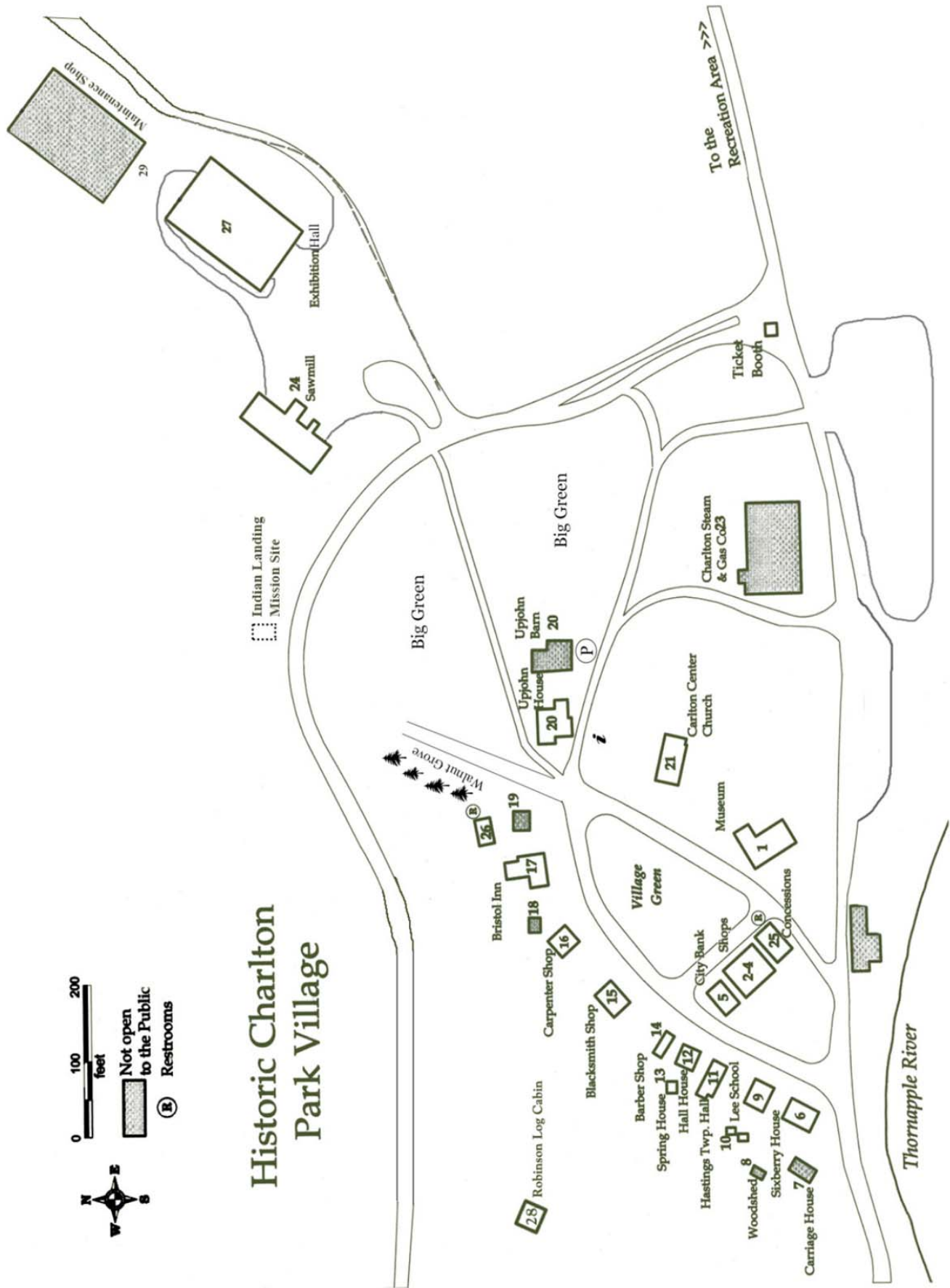
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Thank you for volunteering your time at Historic Charlton Park!



Historic Charlton Park Village



Irving Delos Charlton: August 28, 1882 – June 12, 1963

Date of birth: August 28, 1882 Hastings, MI

Only child of E. Frank and Roseanna Althouse Charlton

Grammar School: September 1889 – June 1898, completed 8th grade

District No. 7, Castleton Township School, Martin Corners (on E. State Rd.).

Interest – Mechanical

High School: September 1898 – June 1901, completed 11th grade

Hastings High School

College: September 1902 – June 1908, B.S. from Mechanical Department

Michigan Agricultural College, Lansing, MI

1908 Summer – Traveled extensively in western United States

1909 Instructor – Blacksmithing, farm engines and buildings

Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

1910 Head of Division of Agricultural Engineering; instructor – farm engines, internal combustion engines, farm repair, wood work, farm buildings, farm sanitation, drainage, plumbing and water supply. State College of Washington, Pullman, WA

1918 Instructor – physics, internal combustion engines; Acting chief of Division; organized, equipped and trained 500 enlisted men (U.S. Army) in shop work, blacksmithing, carpentry, bench work, and electrical work.

University of Minnesota, Agricultural Dept., St. Paul, Minnesota

Left August 1918 “to enter war work”

Enlisted in Army, November 5, 1918

1919 Private – Tank Corps, January 3, 1919

U.S. War Department – Chief of Technical Education, U.S.A., General Hospital No. 36, Detroit, MI; Chief of Technical Education, U.S. Army General Hospital No. 6, Atlanta, GA

1920 Left service of U.S. War Department, March 26, 1920. Returned to farming in Michigan

1927 Michigan State College Representative in the European Corn Borer Control for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, March 25, 1927 to June 10, 1927.

1936 Donated 210 acres of land to Barry County for a park and county museum, Dec. 15, 1936

1951 Moves to Charlton Park becoming caretaker in residence.

1958 Head of Michigan Steam and Thresher Association

1963 Death: June 12, 1963

Charlton Park Chronology

- 1936 Irving Delos Charlton presents proposal to establish Charlton Park by donating 210 acres of land to Barry County, Dec. 15, 1936.
Park proposal read and approved at County Supervisors' meeting, Dec. 17, 1936.
- 1937 First Annual Barry County Pioneer Picnic and Indian Homecoming at Charlton Park, summer.
- 1944 Stone Museum building construction begins – construction suspended soon after due to scarcity of labor and funds.
- 1948 Public opening of the Barry County Museum at Charlton Park, August 14, 15, 1948. Construction not yet complete, nor are the displays in place.
- 1950 Construction completed on Stone Museum with displays in place.
- 1951 Irving Charlton moves to Charlton Park and lives in the building by the river that now houses the shop (River House).
Machine Shed built to house large farm implements
- 1958 First annual Steam Rodeo sponsored by the Michigan Steam and Thresher Association.
- 1963 Irving Charlton dies, June 12, 1963
- 1967 Barry County Parks and Recreation Commission established.
- 1968 Completion of the Charlton Park Master Development Plan.
Blacksmith and Carpenter shops moved to Charlton Park.
- 1969 Museum reopened
Additional 136 acres of land purchased by Barry County Parks and Recreation Commission.
- 1970 Blacksmith shop opened to the public.
1850 Bristol Inn moved to Charlton Park.
- 1971 Carpenter Shop opened to the public.
- 1972 Machine Shed opened to the public.
1885 Carlton Center Methodist Church moved to Charlton Park.
Beach and picnic area developed on Thornapple Lake.
- 1973 1869 Lee School moved to Charlton Park
- 1974 Boat launch, playground and ball diamond developed.
- 1975 Reconstruction of the 1908 Hastings Mutual Insurance Company's first permanent building begins.

- 1976 Reconstruction of General Store, Hardware Store and Print Shop begins.
- 1977 1860 Sixberry House moved to Charlton Park
Cross country ski trail developed.
- 1978 1890 Hall House moved to Charlton Park.
Beach is expanded.
- 1979 Picnic shelter constructed.
- 1980 Carriage House behind Sixberry House reconstructed.
Mini picnic shelter constructed.
Main entrance road paved.
- 1981 1885 Hastings Township Hall moved to Charlton Park
Second mini picnic shelter constructed.
- 1982 Stowell Memorial Spring House constructed and dedicated.
- 1983 Construction begins on Gas and Steam Engine Building.
- 1984 New rate structure, including a village entrance fee, was used for the first time.
- 1985 Dedication of the Gas and Steam Engine Building, Charlton Park Gas and Steam Co.
- 1986 50th Anniversary of Charlton Park
Grand Opening of Charlton Park Gas and Steam Co.
- 1987 1887-1907 Beiber House (Barber Shop) moved to Charlton Park
1852 Upjohn House moved to Charlton Park
1890's Corley Saw Mill purchased
- 1989 1913 Hastings City Bank clock moved to Charlton Park.
- 1999 1870 Robinson Log Cabin reconstructed
- 2003 Indian Village constructed on Charlton Park
Indian Landing excavation begins
- 2006 Exhibition Hall completed, and objects in the Machine Shed moved to the space.
- 2011 75th Anniversary of Charlton Park.

Interpreting

1. Treat all visitors in a friendly and courteous manner.
2. Have fun and enjoy yourself – it will show on your face and in your attitude.
3. Make your talk short and to the point – don't preach – the visitors have more to see.
4. If you make a mistake, laugh it off – no one expects you to be perfect.
5. If you don't know the answer to a question, don't guess. You can tell them you will find out for them, or tell them to find the Programming & Education Facilitator or the Curator & Exhibits Coordinator.

So You Want to Work in Collections...

1. We wear white gloves or nitrile when handling artifacts.
2. Dust is inevitable...other substances probable.
3. It can be tedious.
4. The computer database occasionally has a mind of its own, but that is part of its charm.
5. You need to be meticulous.
6. Research is part of the job.
7. Dress warm, main storage will feel like the Arctic.
8. You may help with exhibit preparation and installation.
9. Our collection is broad, if you have an interest – we have a collection for you!
10. You will find a treasure every day!

Education Programs

These are just general overviews of what goes on during the education programs. The Programming and Education Facilitator has more in-depth descriptions for each station.

Bristol Inn

There are two presenters in this building, one that gives a tour of the house, and one who works in the kitchen. You have 15 minutes for each portion of the tour, so a total of 6 rotations, if the school comes split into 3 larger groups (one group for each building).

Tour Guide

Greet the group at the front door and divide them into two groups. One group will go in the kitchen, the other into the tap room. If you feel it's necessary, remind them they are guests in someone's home and to use their guest manners. Let the group going to the kitchen in first.

Tap Room –Major points to cover in this room: Who William Bristol was, early travel means and what a stagecoach is, the purpose of a stagecoach stop, the taproom occupants (men only, no women or children), the tap, the spittoon and whose chore it was to clean it. **Try not to mention alcohol or tobacco.** The rule of thumb is: don't mention either thing unless someone in the group does. After that, don't dwell on it. Before leaving the taproom, please remind the students that this was the only room they can sit on the furniture. The rest of the tour is what we refer to as "touching with our eyes, but not with our hands." (Look but don't touch)

Guest Parlor – Major points to cover in this room: This is where the women stagecoach passengers would relax. Men could come into this room, but no children. The reason it is called the parlor is because of the fancy items in the room – a parlor was where you wanted to show off the nice family/heirloom possessions you had. Items of interest: sofa, multiple musical instruments, lady's spittoon (looks like a footrest on the floor). Before leaving this room, let the students know you are going upstairs, and to please use the handrail, as the steps are steep.

Upstairs Family Parlor – This room is where the children *could* play, the mother would sew, and the father would have sat at a desk like the one on the right side of the room to do the family accounting. Point out some of the toys. Mention that the wall between this room and the bedroom was taken down to see things better.

Bedroom – This is set up as the parent's bedroom. Mention the cradle and the trundle bed. Explain that children usually slept in their parents' bedroom until about 1st grade, when they outgrew the trundle bed. Talk about "sleep tight and don't let the bedbugs bite" – sleep tight refers to the ropes of the bed, which had to be tightened to insure a good night's sleep (would eventually fall through bed if you forgot), and don't let the bedbugs bite refers to making sure the stuffing in your mattress was clean (no bugs) when you stuffed it once a year. Also talk about the chamber pot and whose chore it would have been to empty.

Dining Room – Was used by the family for Sunday dinners, holidays, and birthdays. The stagecoach passengers ate their meals here. Mention that the door on the side of the house was mainly used by

stagecoach passengers. The dining room can be mentioned either between the tap room and the guest parlor or before the students go into the kitchen

Only if you have time...

Bathroom – This is for the stagecoach passengers to freshen up – the family members would have had a washbowl in their bedroom. Notice the shaving stand, the chamber pot, and the bathtub. Mention that baths would have been taken on Saturday night before church on Sunday, and that they would have been taken in the kitchen, so water could be heated on the stove.

Children’s Room – Please don’t touch the ceiling. This room would have been shared by 2-5 children.

Kitchen Guide

Greet the kids at the doorway connecting to the dining room. If they have coats on, tell them they can put them on the bench, as they will need to have their sleeves rolled up. They will need to wash their hands as they come into the kitchen. Ask them to try and only use one piece of paper towel to dry their hands, and that the garbage is next to the washbowl. Make sure to mention that the space behind the table (where you are standing) is off limits to students. Main topics to discuss in this space – the stove, dry sink, iron, lack of electricity and heat. Chores they complete – chopping vegetables with a mincer (ask them to rock it back and forth, not straight up and down), peeling vegetables, ironing, washing dishes, churning butter, fetching wood. Make sure they rotate chores every few minutes so that you can try and have the kids be able to try every chore.

Things to remember in this station...

You will have to keep an eye on the fire in the stove; you may have to constantly feed it. Add the chopped vegetables to the soup until the end of the 4th rotation, so we can ensure the soup is cooked properly. The rest of the chopped vegetables will be saved and added to the next day’s soup. Your goal is to get a rolling boil going in the soup, but if you don’t that is ok. Add the rice at the end of the 4th rotation as well. Butter churning: they do not have to churn very fast; we want the process to take until the last group. Once the buttermilk has separated from the butter, pour it into the sifter/coffee-pot and put the butter in a ceramic bowl. Paddle out as much buttermilk as possible and add salt. The kids can try the buttermilk if they want.

Township Hall

Welcome them to the building, and ask them to take a seat on the bench along the wall. Things to mention in this station: uses of township hall (decision making, voting, social), what candles are made out of, how they are made, point out the candle molds and any interesting candleholders on the table, and give instructions to how they will be making candles.

Lee School

Note: The school portion of a group’s tour is the most important. This program needs to be informative, but keep the students entertained and participating. The teachers have high expectations of the volunteer in this building. However you choose to do your program, it will

need to be finely honed and researched. This station especially, please refer to the Programming & Education Facilitator for more information to receive more in-depth information.

General Store

There are some general points to cover during this presentation, but how you approach it is completely up to you. Each presenter brings something different to the table, especially with this station.

Major points to cover:

- One of the first shops in a new town
- People's reliance on the general store
- Run by family
- Long hours
- A social center
- The connection to the outside world (newspaper/phone/etc.)
- Point out the catalog and how catalogs and trains improved communication and railroads gave access to more things
- How do you pay for things? (cash, check, credit, barter/trade)
- Other uses for general store (bank, post office, pharmacy)
- Medicines – herbal remedies, man-made medicines, “magic elixirs”
- Brands – how some brands are over 100 years old

There are a variety of items to point out and have the kids guess what they are and/or compare them to what we use today. Examples: bathing suit, coffee grinder, ice skates, stereoscope, curling iron, refrigerator. If you still have time afterwards, head over to the hardware store and talk about some of the items there.

Hardware Store

The general store would have been where you could find most of the items you needed day-to-day, but more often, your building supplies would come from the hardware store.

Points of interest – model of Studebaker wagon, animal traps, door handles, drawers of nails and bolts etc.

Village Building Histories

Bristol Inn

William P. Bristol moved his family from New York to Barry County in 1837 where he built a log home for them. His nearest neighbors were a band of Native Americans who lived along the nearby lake. Mr. Bristol, who was also a blacksmith, made metal items for these neighbors and developed a good relationship with them. The Bristol Inn was built around 1846-1848 in the Greek Revival style. Mr. Bristol moved his family to their new home and opened it as a stagecoach stop on the "Western Road" between Battle Creek and Hastings (now M-37). The Inn would be used by several different stage lines as a stop to rest their horses and for passengers to get something to eat. The road between Grand Rapids and Battle Creek was known as the "Good Intent" line. The fare from Battle Creek to Hastings was \$1.50, \$2.50 to Grand Rapids and would take 6 to 12 hours. Mr. Bristol also ran a tavern, a livery, and a post office from the Inn. William and his wife Deborah raised eight children and one orphaned grandchild in the Inn. In the late 1850s the Robinson family opened the "Halfway House" not far away and by the 1860s they'd run the Bristol Inn out of stagecoach stop business. Mr. Bristol still served the freight stages that traveled between Battle Creek and Grand Rapids. When the Grand Valley division of the Michigan Central Railroad was completed in 1869 it brought an end to both the stagecoach lines and the inns that served them. The Bristol Inn then became a private home.

Deborah died in 1891 and William would follow in 1898 at the age of 95. Their youngest son William Henry sold the Inn and property in 1905 to Austin and Mary Ferris who would raise nine children in this house. In 1970 Austin's son Wayne donated the house to Charlton Park. It has been restored to its original look as a stagecoach inn and opened to the public in 1975.

First Floor

Tap Room

The tap room, or tavern, gets its name from a tap which is a wooden faucet used to drain liquids from a keg or barrel. Alcohol was shipped in barrels or kegs making taps a necessity in a tavern. It was socially unacceptable for women and children to enter the tap room when alcohol was being served. The Bristol's main income came from the tavern and not from the stagecoach business. This changed after the 1860s when the government imposed higher taxes on the sale of alcohol.

The photos on the wall are William P. Bristol taken around 1830 and Abraham Lincoln.

The boot jack held the back of a man's boot while he pulled his foot out of his boot.

The popcorn popper was used to make popcorn in the fireplace.

Guest Parlor

Guests were entertained in this room and although men were allowed, it was mainly used by women. The Bristol family would keep their most prized possession and heirlooms in this room to show them off. Children were not allowed in this room so that nothing would get broken. The furnishings in this room are not the originals but authentic antiques of the time period.

Dining Room

The dining room was used daily by the passengers of the stagecoach. There is a side door into the dining room for passengers to use because Mrs. Bristol didn't want them tracking dirt and mud in through the front door. The Inn was primarily a breakfast stop because the stage left Battle Creek at 3:30 a.m. and arrived at the Bristol Inn around 6 a.m. The Bristol Inn could serve 20 people at a time in this room.

Kitchen

In the 1860s built-in cupboards did not exist so shelves held pots and pans with cabinets holding dishes. There was no running water so dishes were washed in a "dry sink" which is a sink with no water faucet. Water had to be brought in from the outside well or spring in buckets. To get hot water for washing, the water had to be heated on the woodstove. Dishes were washed in large basins placed in the dry sink and when it was time to empty the water, it was thrown outside. No refrigerators were available so food was stored in a root cellar or a spring house which would stay cool year round. Items such as meat and butter were packed in salt to help preserve them.

Second Floor

Large Room

This room serves two purposes – it is both the family parlor and the bedroom of the parents and small children. Originally, this was two separate rooms, but when the Inn was moved to Charlton Park, the middle wall was removed. The stove pipe runs through this room and provides some heat so small children would sleep here. Small children would sleep on a trundle bed which was kept under the larger bed when not in use and would be pulled out at night. The photo on the far wall is Mary Elizabeth Bristol who was born in 1828 and died in 1890. She and her husband Charles Iden Bristol had eleven children. The parlor was for the whole family to enjoy. It was a place to play, rest, and relax after a long day of hard work.

Wash Room

Some stagecoach passengers would spend the night so a wash room was important for privacy. In the average home the wash stand and shaving stand would have been kept in the bedroom with the chamber pot/commode. The bathtub would have been kept in the kitchen where it would be warm and the water could be heated on the woodstove.

Children's Room

The children's bedroom had no heat and stayed very cold even in warmer weather. Children not only shared a room, but they also shared a bed. This allowed them to share body heat and stay warmer.

Third Floor

Up the steep narrow stairs are two very small rooms that we think were used for bedrooms. This area is closed to the public because of these stairs, and is used by the Park for storage.

Carpenter/Cooper Shop

The Carpenter

The carpenter repaired furniture as well as made new furniture. He had access to a wide variety of woodworking tools from mallets to planes, saws to plumb bobs. Wood shavings were a common sight in the carpenter shop because he often started with a block of wood and then shaved it to make a useful item. Items he turned on the lathe would often be both functional and beautiful.

The Cooper

The cooper made and repaired barrels, kegs, casks, pails, etc. Barrels have been constructed in the same way for over 2000 years. The job is hard and a good cooper would produce only two barrels a day. Barrels were used to carry everything from fish, meat, oil, sugar, rum, shoes, candles, and even money! Later the steel and aluminum barrel and the cardboard box would take its place.

Early American Coopers were called journeymen coopers because they journeyed from village to village making and selling their products. As the demand for his product grew, the cooper was able to set up a shop and let the people come to him.

The Charlton Park Carpenter/Cooper Shop

The shop was originally a barn donated to the Park along with the Blacksmith Shop's barn in 1968 by Tom Neithamer and was opened to the public in 1971.

Blacksmith Shop

The blacksmith's shop was usually the first business in a settlement because almost everything early settlers used was made from iron or wood, and if it was made of iron – the blacksmith made it! Everyone depended on him to make tools like hammers, axes, knives, files, chisels, and anything else made of iron. He would also repair and replace items. He was essential to transportation because he welded and fit wagon rims and hub shoes. In small communities he also made shoes and shod horses, oxen, and mules. He even made ice skates, toy wagons, and doll carriages for the village children. Houses could not be built without his nails, brads, hinges, shutter fasteners, and window fasteners. He made decorative wrought-iron gates and fences too.

The blacksmith's tools can be grouped into three locations:

1. *The hearth area*: with the firebox or forge, the bellows, a water trough, shovels, tongs, rakes, pokers, and a container of water for dampening the fire.

2. *The anvil*: which was often mounted on top of a post or tree trunk. Anvils were made of iron and classed by weight. The top working surface was a flat face, a drop table for making corners, and a horn or beak for making curves. The anvil had to be close enough to the forge to keep the iron from becoming too cool before it reached the anvil.
3. *Specific tool area*: contained basic tools like hammers, tongs, vises, twisting bars (for putting a twist in the iron), punches, and a cone for making rings. He would also have a variety of tools with no names that he invented to serve specific purposes.

The Charlton Park Blacksmith Shop

Irving Charlton set up a blacksmith shop in the basement of the museum, making it the first demonstration exhibit in the park. When the Park Commission established the Village, the blacksmith shop was moved to one of the two barns donated by Tom Neithamer. The blacksmith shop was finished in 1970 with fund from the Thornapple Foundation and donated labor. The blacksmith shop and the carpenter/cooper shop (the other donated barn) form the nucleus of the village.

Barber Shop

Barbers not only gave a shave and a haircut, but also were doctors and dentists. They performed bloodletting, tooth extractions, and minor surgery well into the 19th century. The striped pole is a legacy of the bloodletting performed in the past.

Barber shops became a popular place for men to socialize and they would often visit several times a week. The number of barbers began to decline in the 1900s because of the Great Depression and the invention of the safety razor by Gillette Safety Razor Company. In 1903 they produced 51 razors and in the next year that increased to 90,000 razors. Men could now shave themselves easily and long hair was the style.

The Barber Shop at Charlton Park

This building was built sometime between 1889 and 1907. It was connected to a larger house and was located at 118 E. Center Street in Hastings. The larger house has been torn down. The building has been used as a jewelry store, a candy store, an apartment, as Dr. Frank Sheffield's office, and Kathrine Humpry used it to give piano lessons. Evert and Chi Chi Bieber donated the building to the park and it was moved here in 1997. The false panel front gives the building the appearance of having a second floor. It has been restored as a barbershop of the 180s and has two rooms.

Despite the decline in barber shops, Barry County had 34 of them in 1910. The front room of the shop was the barbers work area. The mirrored wall was in Caleb "Cap" Sprague's Main Street

Barber Shop in Nashville which opened in 1914. On the shelf are bottles full of Osage rub, after shave lotion, and hair tonic which would be for sale. There were other items like straight razors, razor strops, cigars, spittoons, and dentist tools in the shop. Shaving mugs would be lined up to show how successful the barber was. The back room has a shoeshine stand and a bathtub with a water heater. In many shops it was not uncommon for a man to bathe, be shaved, perfumed, manicured, boot shined, moustache curled, and pants pressed all in less than an hour.

Hall House

The Seamstress

The village seamstress usually was an unmarried woman or a widow who might have a family to support. She would look for a small house like the Hall House where she could live and work. She would set aside a corner of the house for her sewing supplies. She not only made dresses but would also mend seams that were coming loose or tears to shirts, pants, petticoats, and dresses. This was a time when nothing was thrown out that could be fixed or mended. If a woman wanted a dress made by the seamstress, she would go to the village store and buy the material or have it ordered by the store. She would take the material to the seamstress who would take her measurements and make a pattern to fit. Styles included mutton leg sleeves, lined bodices, and lace or binding for decoration. It would take several days to make the dress depending on the style and amount of decoration. Farm families wouldn't come to the village often so the women would sometimes buy material from a traveling salesman. The seamstress would come to their home and stay one or two weeks until the dress was finished. She might work on mending projects or "make-overs" while she was there too. If a dress was worn out but still had some good material it would be used to make another piece of clothing like a child's dress or blouse – a "make-over." The smaller pieces that couldn't be made into clothing for someone were saved to be used in a quilt. If a family didn't have the money to pay the seamstress, they would barter or trade something like potatoes, farm products, or wood for the stove to pay her.

The Charlton Park Seamstress Home – Hall House

This small frame house was constructed in the late 19th century and was originally located at 334 W. Madison in Hastings. It is known as the Hall House because the estate of Wesley and Josie Hall donated it to the Park in 1978. The house was moved by Zane Mead who placed the structure on a trailer, brought it to the Park, and placed it on its new foundation.

The house has a small bedroom just large enough to hold a few belongings. There are no closets but the hooks behind the door would be used to hold the few pieces of clothing she had. People did not have the amount of clothing we do today. A woman might have two or three dresses – one for Sundays and special occasions and two everyday dresses. She would never wear pants. The living room was small but had enough room for her sewing supplies and the family could gather around to socialize in the evening. The narrow back room became a combination kitchen and dining room.

Township Hall

An act of Congress in 1825 allowed the governor and the territorial council to divide counties into townships. Township halls became the seat of government for these small communities. They were used to hold meetings and as a voting place for a growing male population (women weren't allowed to vote until 1920). The township hall, the church, and the school were the center of activity in a community.

The Charlton Park Township Hall

This township hall was built in 1885. It is a simple one-story Greek Revival building and served the Hastings Township until 1980. Before it was moved to Charlton Park in 1981, the stage, bookshelves, and voting booths were removed. In 2012 it was given a fresh coat of paint and the stove was moved from the center of the room to the back, making the room much safer from fire hazards. The seats attached to the wall are the only original furnishings. Today it is used for meetings and various interpretive activities like candle making.

Spring House

A spring house was a small building used for refrigeration before electricity, and was usually a one-room building built over a spring. The water in the spring maintains a constant cool temperature inside the spring house throughout the year. If no natural spring was available a small creek or a diverted portion of a larger creek was used. The main use of the spring house was for long term storage of food that would otherwise spoil, such as meat, fruit, and dairy products.

Spring House at Charlton Park

There is a plaque that says "In Memory of Flora Bell Willets Stowell by her family." She organized the first 4H Club in Barry County in 1920. She was very active in the Garden Club and Charlton Park. In 1976, she was awarded the Liberty Bell Award.

Lee School (one room schoolhouse)

The one room school was often the neighborhood center as well as the center for learning. Grades 1-8 would be held in the school with 8 to 28 students on average. There was a large difference in the ages of the students which required very strict discipline – whispering and talking were not allowed. Boys would sit on one side and girls on the other side. The first two rows would be empty so the teacher could call students to the front to work with them by grade level. The lessons would last about 25 minutes. Behind these two rows would be the younger students and the oldest would be in the last rows. While the teacher was working with a group of students, the other students would work on assignments written for them on the blackboard. Slate boards were used to do their assignments; paper was saved for their best work because it was expensive. Ink wells would sit on each desk and students would fill their fountain pen or dip their pen in the ink to write. The large windows of the school provided light and the wood stove furnished heat. The teacher would start the fire in the morning and might assign students to bring in wood and tend to the fire. Most students walked to school and carried their lunch and would often bring a potato which they would mark and place under the stove so they could have a hot lunch.

Teachers were hired for three months terms. A woman might be hired for the fall and spring terms, but a man would be hired for the winter term. The older boys would come back to school in the winter term, so it was felt that a male teacher would be able to keep better control of them. The teacher was also the principal, janitor, and the librarian, among filling other roles we see in schools today. In 1871 the average pay for a female teacher was \$19.03, while a male teacher made \$34.97. Teachers could stay in a boarding home if there was one close by, but they usually stayed with the family of one of their students, or moved from family to family. When they stayed with a family, they were expected to help with the chores and to tutor the children. The cost of their room and board was deducted from their pay.

Lee School at Charlton Park

The Lee school was built in 1869 on land owned by William Lee and was located 2 miles west of Woodland. The school was open from 1869 until 1923 when the Woodland schools were consolidated. The school didn't have a belfry when it was originally built, but one was added at the turn of the century, but later removed. The belfry on the school now was added from another school when the Lee school was brought to Charlton Park in 1973. The furniture is not original, but it is typical of what would have been in a school during that time. The desks, called "Ironside Desks" were manufactured by the Grand Rapids School Furniture Co., and came from the Martin school on Center Road. The blackboards were simply the framed walls painted black, except for the center board. The American flag has forty-five stars on it, representing the Union from 1896 to 1906. The pictures of Washington, Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, and General Sheridan suggest a timeframe between 1901-1906. The flop charts date from 1899 and are typical of the kind used at the time. Each desk has a slate board that the students would use to do their figuring and practicing.

Sixberry House

John C. Dillon and his wife Rachael were the original owners of this house. They moved from Ohio in the winter of 1853 and purchased the property at 8700 S. Clark Road in Maple Grove Township. In October of 1854 Mr. Dillon cut trees on this property and hauled them to the mill to be made into lumber to build his house. In his diary, he kept a list of the expenses of the building for the house, which added up to approximately \$1,000. The Dillons had had 6 children, and 2 died in infancy. When Rachael grew older, she became and the house was partially remodeled to make life easier for her. The front room was made smaller and on the post near the bottom of the staircase there is a raised diamond. Legend has it that this is the carpenter's symbol used to let Mrs. Dillon know she had reached the last step. The Dillon's lived in this house until 1905. Later Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Sixberry acquired the house and in 1975 donated it to Charlton Park. It was moved to the Park in 1977 and is now called the Sixberry House.

In the past, it was interpreted as a doctor's house, but is now interpreted as a lawyer's house. A lawyer would have been part of the upper middle class and could afford modern conveniences such as an icebox, wet sink, and indoor plumbing.

Hastings Mutual Insurance Building

The Hastings Mutual Building was originally located on the northeast corner of Jefferson and Center Streets in Hastings. The Greek Revival structure was designed by J.P. Waters of Hastings and cost \$8,710.11 to build. In 1885 Daniel Webster Rogers pushed for the passage of a new state law that would allow for the creation of a windstorm insurance company in the state. He then created the Michigan Tornado, Cyclone, and Windstorm Insurance Company which would be in this building until 1924. In its first 12 years the Windstorm Company would become the largest company of its kind in the state and the second largest in the nation. Rodgers became secretary of the Windstorm Company while maintaining his position as secretary of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company. These two companies merged in 1920 to form the new Michigan Mutual Windstorm Insurance Company. The new company quickly outgrew this building and moved to the former Hastings City Hall in 1924. In 1972 the building was slated to be demolished but with the assistance of the Hastings Mutual Insurance Company the demolition was stopped until the foyer tile and the overhead inscription could be saved. The salvaged parts of the building were stored at Charlton Park until the late 1970s when the building was reconstructed.

The front façade of the building, the doors, some of the interior trim and the light fixtures are original. The brick and mortar colors had to be matched because there were not enough bricks, and part of the inscription has been reproduced. The cut stone foundation is not original but comes from another Hastings building of the same time period. The brass grills and counter supports are from the Delton Bank and the walnut bank counter was originally used in a Hastings bank. The Hastings Public Schools and the Barry County Courthouse supplied file cabinets and the desk. The Hastings City Bank donated the safe, and the vault was used in the
(Hastings Mutual Building continued)

Grand Rapids Bookcase building (of Hastings). The final cost of reconstruction supported by the Hastings Mutual Insurance Company was \$35,000. The building was dedicated in 1980.

The National Banking Act established nationally chartered banks during the Civil War. The Hastings National Bank was Barry County's first bank and was established in 1871 and is represented on the first floor.

The second floor is the law office of Kim Sigler who served as Barry County's prosecuting attorney from 1922-1929. He was appointed prosecutor in the Carr Grand Jury investigation of bribes to legislators in 1943. He was also Michigan's 40th in 1947-48. Also on the second floor are the restored office of the Windstorm Insurance Company and a records office. The bookkeeper's desk is the only original piece of furniture.

Hardware Store

One of the first stores to set up in a young town would be the hardware store. It would start with the owner as manager and clerk and would grow rapidly as the town grew. The stock for the store would arrive by oxcart or wagon and would include all kinds of farm and home utensils. The hardware store dealt mostly in items of steel, iron, wood, tin, and copper. The items in the store included small items like screws, nuts, bolts, nails, and household machines like pitters, slicers, and fireplace items. One could buy stoves, farm implements, ox yokes, bicycles, and even buggies and wagons. The owner would strive to keep regularly used items on hand, but more specialized items could be ordered. Salesmen would often drop off displays or miniature facsimiles of their wares so customers could examine them and place an order.

The store would extend credit to many of its customers and would have a large accounts receivable file in the back. This allowed easy maintenance of accounts to be settled after harvest or when money became available. The barter system would also be used to settle some accounts. The safe in the back where the accounts payable were kept might also serve as a community safe if there was no bank.

The Hardware Store at Charlton Park

The Hardware Store was constructed at Charlton Park in 1976 with financial aid from the Hastings Mutual Insurance Company and a grant from the American Bicentennial Commission. The storefront is from a Nashville building. The oak drawers and glass case were originally in the Hall Hardware Store in Hastings. The remainder of the furniture and artifacts are from the Museum's own collection.

This store offers an excellent opportunity to see how lifestyles have changed as new technology emerged. Many hand-operated items sit next to machine-driven models and some items are now obsolete.

General Store

During the turn of the century, most of the items the average household needed could be found at the General Store. A person would only buy items they could not make at home like clocks, pocket watches, coffee, writing utensils, and various jugs and pots. The store interiors generally had counters along the sidewalls and across the rear. There would be shelves behind these counters for additional goods. If an item was not on display it could be ordered from a catalog.

Goods were divided into two categories: *yard goods* which consisted of handmade lace, thread, and cloth for making clothes, and *dry goods* were clothing. To make putting purchased items in your wagon easier, the front porch of the store was usually built high enough to make loading easy. Out front there would be hitching posts and often stalls to protect the animals during bad weather. At the rear of the store there was access to farm implements and bulk goods.

Family doctors were rare so the General Store sold medicine which claimed to cure virtually any disease, sickness, or pain. They had names like "Wizard Oil," as if it could magically cure you. After reading the label you would realize what made you feel better was the 40-60% alcohol it contained. When you entered the store, you could smell the herbs and ointments.

Purchasing on credit was a regular practice at the General Store because most customers were farmers and they often had little money on hand until the fall harvest. The owner of the store would keep an account book with everyone's purchases listed until they were able to pay or work out a barter deal. The emphasis was on working with the customer as long as they demonstrated trustworthiness.

The general store was more than just a place to purchase the things you needed, it was also a place to gather and socialize. Often there would be a game of checkers going and older members of the community would be there telling stories of the "good ole days" or talking politics.

The Charlton Park General Store

The General Store was built in 1976 with help from the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Storefronts from both Woodland and Sunfield were used. Much of the interior was donated from various individuals and groups. The walk-in freezer/meat locker was donated by Felpaush and the Fedewa Store in Hastings. The fancy tin ceiling was obtained from an individual in Kalamazoo. The bins in the front of the store are from the Grand Rapids Public Museum. The green herb tins that line the upper shelves were donated by a local pharmacy.

Print Shop

Newspapers provided the community with news both local and national. Most communities like Hastings would have two papers which would offer different viewpoints: Democratic and Republican. In the paper would be ads from local businesses, ads for new products, and embellished editorials on the morals and politics of the community. The Industrial Revolution brought about changes to the print shop technology. The hand-fed and foot-operated presses, which produced limited sheets of print gave way to belt operated steam-powered presses. The Mergenthaler Linotype machine was an improvement over the previous hand method of setting individual characters of type. The new method allowed for the setting of a full line of type which made the printing process much faster. The cost of printing decreased and the availability of newspapers, books, and pamphlets grew.

The Charlton Park Print Shop

The Print Shop, like the rest of Mainstreet is a reconstructed building funded in part by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and the Miller Foundation of Battle Creek. The front façade is from a Nashville building. The printing machinery is from various printing establishments in the area. The Reliance paper cutter (1880) and Golding Press (1886) were donated by the Passenger Printing Service of Caledonia. The Cranson Pres (1870) , the Gallery Press (1880), the Chandler Price Printing Press (1889), and the stapler were donated by the Nashville News. The Mergenthaler Linotype Press (1906) was donated by the Hastings Press.

Museum Building

Irving Charlton started to build the three-story fieldstone building in 1944 but work stopped during World War II and was not finished until 1950. Mr. Charlton was a collector and the museum was his way of displaying his collections. He built display cases and shelves to hold his collections and even set up a blacksmith shop inside the museum. By the time of Mr. Charlton's death the museum was overflowing and in desperate need of more display space. The Park was closed for a time after his death while his will went through litigation. A Park Commission was formed and a historic village concept was adopted. Historic buildings from around Barry County were moved to the Park. They allowed Mr. Charlton's overflowing collection to be displayed in a more organized way, making it easier to see.

The ground floor has been renovated to host exhibits and the second floor has more exhibit space and storage. The third floor is used for storage and as a work space and is not open to the public.

Carlton Center Church (Community Church)

The church provided religious instruction and helped set a moral tone for the community. Country churches varied from one community to the next. These churches would meet only once on Sunday or every other Sunday with very few weekday activities. The congregations were small and had little money to pay a pastor. In 1901 larger churches would pay their pastor about \$1,000 a year while smaller churches would pay \$100 or less a year. To make enough money to live on, a pastor would travel from church to church. These pastors would have a regular circuit they would follow, earning them the name "circuit riders." To pay their expenses, churches would hold socials which would include a program followed by a potluck dinner or ice cream and cake, and a hat would be passed around for donations.

The Carlton Center Church at Charlton Park

The Carlton Center congregation started in the 1840s with a circuit rider preaching in the homes of members. In 1848 church services were moved to the Carlton Center long school house. The congregation met every other weekend and had a membership of 20 people. The Carlton Center Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1885-86 on land donated by Peter Covert. It was a circuit church on the Freeport Circuit and later on the Woodland Circuit. The church is 30 feet wide, 50 feet long, and 33 feet high. The interior has wood wainscoting, walnut trimmed oak pews, a wood patterned parquet ceiling and cathedral-shaped Gothic windows. The chimney is located in the protruding enclosure to the right of the pulpit. The enclosure on the left serves no function except to give a balanced appearance. The furniture is original and most of it was moved with the church.

The original steeple was struck by lightning on September 9, 1933, and destroyed below the main roof line. It stood 25 feet taller than the present belfry. The 500 pound bell, donated by the Messer Brothers of Hastings, is the original bell of the church. Following the destruction of the steeple, the congregation met in the Adventist Church until repairs were completed in late October. In 1972, the church was moved to Charlton Park.

George Woods and Co. (founded in 1852) and James Dumas, a cabinet maker, made the organ which has 61 keys and 165 different reeds. Tom Neithamer donated it to Charlton Park in 1974. The piano was moved with the church.

When the church stood in Carlton Center, there was a shed just north of the church used for buggies and horses while the members were at the church service. That shed was sold in 1930 for \$50 to make rabbit hutches.

Upjohn House

The Upjohn's were early settlers in Hastings and played an important role in the history of both Hastings and the nation. Dr. William A. Upjohn and his wife Lydia settled in Hastings in the 1840s. Dr. Upjohn was the second doctor to establish a practice in Hastings, and for many years he was the only doctor in Barry County. He also served on the village council, the Hastings School Board, and was one of the first regents of the University of Michigan. Dr. William A. and his nephew Dr. William E. practiced together for a while in Hastings. Dr. William E. would become the founder of the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company of Kalamazoo.

The Upjohn House was constructed by Robert Grant in 1852 in the Greek Revival style and was owned by the Upjohn family from 1857 until 1917. The Upjohn House was moved to the Park in 1988. It now serves as the welcome center, gift shop, and administrative offices. On the first floor, there is a room where some of Dr. William A. Upjohn's items are on display.

Gas and Steam Engines (Gas and Steam Building)

Farming was an important and significant industry before the Industrial Revolution and with the introduction of steam-powered engines farming was vastly improved. The arrival of the stationary and self-propelled engines shifted the hardest farm work from man and animal power to machines. The gasoline engine was impossible before the discovery of the Pennsylvania oil fields in 1859 and gasolines were made available. The gas engine era came after World War I; by the 1930s the steam engine companies had stopped manufacturing steam engines.

The Gas and Steam building at Charlton Park

The first annual Steam Rodeo was held at Charlton Park in 1958. The Gas and Steam Engine Club began construction of the Gas and Steam building in 1983 and it was finished in 1985. The white oak timber used for the construction of the building came from the trees grown in the Park. The building houses Charlton Park's gas and steam engines as well as various historical machines on loan from club members. There is a shop inside the building where repairs can be made on artifacts using belt-driven equipment.

Exhibition Hall

This building was built in 2003 with funds from Barry County and an \$80,000 bequest from the Bauer Estate. This building contains machinery used by farmers before the Industrial Revolution and most is hand or foot powered or powered by animals. This building includes plows, cultivators, binders, mowing machines, planters, and other machines that would be used on a farm. These machines are displayed to show the progression of technology.

This building is also home to a variety of buggies, wagons, sleighs, and sleds. These vehicles relied on teams of draft animals. These teams would be replaced with cars, trucks, and railroads.

This building also houses the 15-horsepower Westinghouse Steam Engine, the 2 Co-Op tractors from the Ferris Centennial Farm, and will house the 1909 Buick when the restoration is finished.

Sawmill

Before the 19th century, sawyers (a person who saws wood) worked by hand and usually in pairs. One man would stand above ground holding one end of the saw, and the other man in a pit holding the other end and together they would cut the logs. When the steam engine was invented sawmills were developed. They could produce lumber much faster and easier. Sawmills were usually built near rivers or lakes so logs could be floated to the mill. Since most buildings were made of wood it wouldn't be long before a small town would appear near the mill.

The Charlton Park Sawmill

Charlton Park's Corley Sawmill was built in the 1890s and was originally owned by Gene Norris of Cedar Creek. The Park purchased the mill in 1987 and moved it to the Park. The barn that covers the mill was built by the Gas and Steam Engine Club to protect it.