Touring the Towns of Tompkins County, New York

Destination
Dryden

Annual Events and Festivals
June – Dryden Dairy Day & Parade, Montgomery Park, Elm St, Dryden. 607-844-8049.
– Rally Day, CNY Spiritist Association, 2 Cook St, Freeville. 607-844-4658. Festival, food, and readings.
– Music in the Hollow, Thurs eves, Ellis Hollow Community Center, Ellis Hollow and Turkey Hill Rds. 607-844-3303.
Freeville Harvest Festival, Freeville schoolgrounds. 607-844-8301.
Dec – Christmas Open House, Town of Dryden Historical Society. At various historical sites. 607-844-9209.

Museums
Freebrook Farm, 39 Fall Creek Rd, Freeville. 607-844-8754. Private collection of the Marquis family, who will share their buggies, sleighs, and wagons if you call ahead. Horse-pulled rides available.

 Lodging

Candlelight Inn B&B, 49 Main St, Dryden 13053. 607-844-4321. www.candlelightinnny.com. Near walking trail...
Embassy Inn Motel, 1083 Dryden Rd (Rt 13), Ithaca, NY 14850. 607-270-3721.
Varna Inn, 933 Dryden Rd (Rt 13), Ithaca, NY 14850. 607-273-0596.


Specialty Shops
Captains Matt’s Treasure Cove, 2186 Dryden Rd (Rt 13). 607-844-9500. Collectibles, baseball cards, coins, and more.
Laser and Brewer Sportswear, 1384 Dryden Rd. 607-347-4154. Women’s regular and large-size clothing.

Farm Stands
Fall Creek Farm Market, 397 Fall Creek Rd, Freeville. 607-838-8203. May–Oct.

Recreational Areas and Activities
(Recreational Areas feature hiking, skiing, birding, nature watching.)
Dryden Lake Golf Club, 430 Lake Rd, Dryden. 607-844-8130.
Ellis Hollow Nature Preserve, Ellis Hollow Creek Rd.
Etna Nature Preserve, Rt 366 near Etna corners.
Genung Nature Preserve, Rt 38 & Brooklyn Rd.
Monkey Run Preserve, between Rts 366 and 13, near Varna.
Montgomery Park, Elm St, Dryden. Bandstand, courts, playing fields.
Von Engeln Preserve, W Malloryville Rd.

Yellow Barn State Forest, Yellow Barn Rd.

Cemeteries
Ellis Hollow, 1800 Ellis Hollow Rd, north of Peaceful Dr.
Etna, 581 Main St, Etna.
Green Hills, 19 Highland Dr, Dryden.
Pioneer, 41 E Main St, Dryden.
Robertson, Baker Hill Rd.
Snyder Hill, 660 Snyder Hill Rd.
Willow Glen, see #3.

Historical Markers
Birthplace of John Miller, 1843, first governor of ND, Ringwood Rd, 3 miles S of Rt 13.
Birthplace of William (Daddy) George, 1866, West Dryden Rd.
Dryden Center House, first town meetings, Rt 13, 2 ¼ miles W of Dryden.
Dryden Village Green, two markers, one for veterans.
Dryden Village Historic District, SE area of village.
Etna, First Baptist Church in town, see #6. Two additional markers on Lower Creek Rd, Underground Railroad sites.
First Road (Briddle Rd), 1795, Rt 13. George Junior Republic roots here, 1895, ¾ mile W of West Dryden.
Indian Campsite, W side of Dryden Lake.
Malloryville, two markers: Invention of Barrel-Making Machine, Settlement of Malloryville c. 1826.


Credits
Prepared by Municipal Historians of Tompkins County and the Office of the Tompkins County Historian
Funded by the Strategic Tourism Board of Tompkins County and the Town of Dryden
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Design and Production by Deena Rambaum 2007 AP
Dryden, organized in 1803, was township #23 of the Military Tract. It is among the state’s largest towns, with 94 square miles and a current population of 13,500. Settlers engaged in agriculture, and by 1835 the town had 53 sawmills that depleted the white pine forests. The Dryden Fair flourished between 1856 and 1917, featuring a distinctive 12-sided building. Important 19th-century town enterprises included a glass factory in Freeville, the Dryden Springs Sanitarium, and the George Junior Republic, founded to educate disadvantaged New York City children. Today Dryden has a few large dairy farms, some crop farms, and several horse ranches. Many residents are employed in area educational institutions.

1. **Dryden Village** – Incorporated in 1857, the village remains the town’s largest community, with many handsome homes. The Dutch-Gutchess Homestead, 12 E Main St, is a striking Italianate-style residence built in 1865 by US congressman John W. Dwight. It was owned by his family until its 1938 purchase by the Gutchess family, whose third generation occupies it today. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Dryden Village Green is on the NE corner of the main intersection. The Romanesque Revival-style Methodist Episcopal Church on the corner was built of wood in 1874. The original fountain, erected in 1894, deteriorated over the years and was melted down in 1941. A second fountain was placed in its footprint in 1997 to commemorate the town’s Bicentennial. Several memorials are also located on the Green. H At 14 North St is the Southworth Homestead, a Federal-style home built in 1836 from local brick and listed on the NRHP. On the NW corner of the intersection is Time Square Park, created in 2003. Southworth Library at 24 W Main St was designed by Ithaca architect William Henry Miller in Romanesque Revival style and completed in 1894. Jennie McGraw Fiske, who gave Cornell University its chimes, bequeathed the idea and the funds for this library. The building is on the NRHP.

2. **Dryden Lake Park and Jim Schug Trail** – The lake covers half of this 200-acre wildlife area managed by the state. In the 1900s this area was Indian campinggrounds and summer hunting lands. H The park is a great place for viewing wildlife, flora, and especially land and water birds. The Jim Schug Trail, named for the late town supervisor, runs from Dryden Village to the lake and on to meet the Finger Lakes Trail.

3. **Hanshaw Rd – Turkey Hill Rd** – This small community was settled c.1800. Headwaters, at 1735 Ellis Hollow Rd, is a fine example of Federal style. At 1780 stands the handsome John Ellis House, in Gothic Revival style.

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5. **English House – One of several noteworthy houses on Snyder Hill Rd, this Second Empire home has been beautifully maintained and features highly decorated multicolored slate shingles, a cupola, and brick outhouse.**

6. **George Junior Republic – Founded in 1895 by William R. (Daddy) George, the complex is now a private service agency. H On the hill is the school’s Christ Chapel, completed in 1901 and a rare example of Shingle style. It is listed on the NRHP.**

7. **Village of Freeville – Incorporated in 1887, the village at that time was an important railroad exchange. At 2 Cook St is the Temple of Truth, the smallest church building in the town, erected in 1952 by the Central New York Spiritualist Association in a 10-acre park, first developed in 1895 as a campgrounds. The association still holds gatherings here. Turtle Walk Labyrinth, at 22 Main St, is free to the public May through October. Dedicated in 1999, it has seven circuits containing more than 60 varieties of herbs and flowers.**

8. **Ena – A small community on the banks of Fall Creek, Ena features the First Baptist Church, organized in 1804, built in 1830; and completely remodeled in 1880. H Houtz Hall, constructed by the Methodist Episcopal Society in 1878, later served as a community center and auxiliary school building. Today it houses the Post Office and a meeting hall with exhibits and historical photographs. 607-347-4763. Several notable historical houses are at #2 and #3 Lower Creek Rd, and at #2 Ena Rd.**

9. **Eight Square School – The county’s oldest existing school building, it was in regular use from 1827 until 1941. Listed on the NRHP and owned by The History Center of Tompkins County, it is the location of the center’s Living History Program.**

10. **Sapsucker Woods – The Cornell University Lab of Ornithology is a nonprofit membership institute. The center’s 2003 building has informational displays, observation decks, exhibitions, and a gift shop. It is surrounded by 225 acres with four miles of trails. 607-254-2453. www.birds.cornell.edu.**

11. **Willow Glen Cemetery – The largest cemetery in the town was started c.1815 on the first road cut into the town, known as the Biddle Path because in many places it was passable only on foot. The cemetery has a raised center section where a majestic 200-year-old silver maple tree stands, measuring 19’3” around the trunk.**