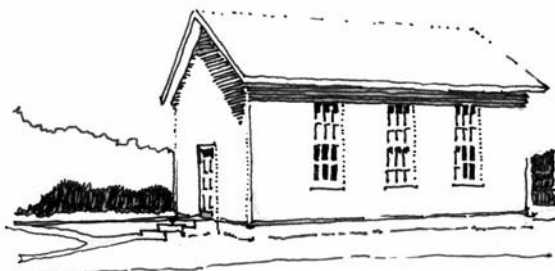


roads or across the street from the village green. With their steeples, they were conspicuous, standing out by shape and size from other surrounding buildings. In villages without a church, services as well as public meetings were often held in the schoolhouse.



(Top) Schoolhouse:  
Denmark, Ashtabula County.  
(Bottom) Methodist Church:  
Kelloggsville, Ashtabula  
County.

The village usually had a general store with the owner living above. This was not a specialty shop but provided a bit of everything. Farmers were mostly self-sufficient but they needed or wanted some things that they could not grow or make for themselves. Again, Rose B. Lawrence writes:

The butter, mutton and beef products were exchanged for script, silk cloth, hoop skirts, etc. All linen and cotton cloth was woven at home. Tea, coffee, and sugar were products mostly purchased.

Often there was a post office inside the store. Mail might have been delivered only once or twice a month, less often in bad weather. Still, people sent and received messages and thus occupied a larger world.

There might have been a blacksmith shop or even a cooper's shed in the village. These were less common, but small machines of various kinds needed attention, horses needed shoes, and, in a place of dairy farms, there was a steady need for repairs to wooden casks and tubs.

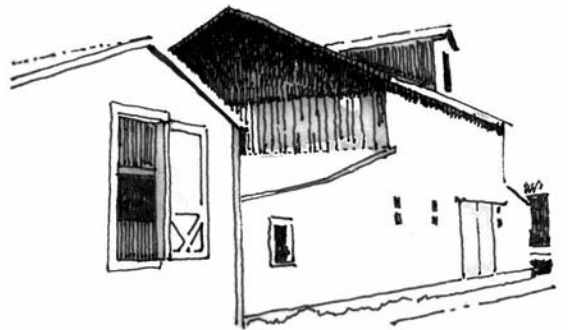
Often, a manufacturing plant was found at the edge of a village and away from the center of things. In Ashtabula County it was most likely to be a cheese factory, but there might also have been a

sawmill or a gristmill, a tannery, or a carding factory. Some villages had more than one such operation and some had none at all. Most depended on access to ample, free-moving water and, therefore, on proximity to a creek that could be dammed or to a river.

The village grew as necessary to maintain the rural life around it. Since that life was fairly steady, there was little need for indefinite expansion. Houses appeared one at a time, usually built by the family who would occupy them. But occasionally a village family would build a larger house than it needed, or even a tavern or hotel.

The young schoolhouse assistant usually came from a village family, but the teacher might have arrived from a distant town. Lacking a family, she could find room and board in the village, perhaps with a widow trying to make ends meet as both seamstress and landlady. The widow and teacher together made a new kind of household, not a traditional farm family, but a fellowship of mutual need just the same.

Like the teacher, a preacher often came from a far-off place. It is recorded that in 1824 Elder Lane of the Erie Methodist Conference arrived to preach in Sheffield Corners only once every 4 weeks. Then, in 1844, a proper church was built. Here the membership grew and by 1875, the “Rev. E. S. Baker, who resided in Kellogsville, arrived nearly every Sunday to preach to a flock



(Top) General Store:  
Kingsville, Ashtabula County.  
(Bottom) Kingsville Mill.