WEST TURIN TOWNSHIP

West Turin, located in southern Lewis County, was formed from Turin Township on March 25, 1830. Constableville, Lyons Falls, and Collinsville are the three most prominent communities of the township.

Collinsville, named after Levi and Homer Collins, until the 1880's, was best known in Lewis County as a center of trade. It had several general stores, two hotels, two churches and many small industries. Collinsville's decline started when the main highways bypassed the community, and the location of the Black River Canal and Black River Railroad at Lyons Falls made it more accessible for trade.

Gould Paper Company, founded by Gordias Henry P. Gould, made Lyons Falls the largest industry in West Turin. The large pulp and paper mill completed on February 1, 1896 was unique for its time in that it was one of the few in the country that made paper from tree to finished roll. Newsprint paper was the principle product made until 1945. After 1951, the company changed hands several times.

Constable Hall, built by William Constable Jr., was completed in 1819. Five generations of the Constable family resided at the Hall until 1947 and remains one of the most famous landmarks of Lewis County.

William Constable Sr. became a wealthy merchant after the American Revolution and established a partnership, Constable and Company, which became one of the most prominent import-export houses in the nation. He is best remembered as a partner in the largest real estate transaction in the history of New York State, the Macomb Purchase. In 1791, along with Alexander Macomb and Daniel McCormick, an estimated four million acres of land, or one tenth of the State of New York was involved in the transaction. The area covered all of Lewis, Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Franklin counties, as well as parts of Oswego and Herkimer. The original deeds were drawn up by William Constable's lawyer and friend, Alexander Hamilton.-

MAIN ST. CONSTABLEVILLE N.Y.

Former Business Block, Left built around 1870; Right, Doyle Block built 1876, Hardware Blocks razed in Early 1960s. and Drugs