

*Look up,
New York!!*

Walking Tours of 25
Towns Upstate

DOUG GELBERT



CRUDEN BAY BOOKS

About the author:

Doug Gelbert has written over 30 guidebooks on such diverse topics as public golf courses, the Civil War, movie filming locations and the best places to hike with your dog. For more information on this title visit the website *walkthetown.com*.

LOOK UP, NEW YORK!:
WALKING TOURS OF 25 TOWNS UPSTATE

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How to use this book...

There is no better way to see New York than on foot. And there is no better way to appreciate what you are looking at than with a walking tour. Whether you are visiting a new town or just out to look at your own town in a new way, a walking tour is ready to explore when you are.

Each of the 25 walking tours in **Look Up, New York!** describes a mix of historical and architectural and ecclesiastical landmarks. A quick primer on identifying architectural styles seen on New York streets can be found at the back of the book on page 194.

Where are the maps?

Let's face it, in today's world of GPS, Google Maps and Mapquest trying to squeeze a detailed map onto a 7" a 10" piece of paper can be a superfluous exercise. The best way to get a map of these towns is to pick an address from the tour and plug it into your favorite mapping program. Adjust the map to whatever size best suits your needs and print it out to carry with you.

These tours are designed to be followed and enjoyed without maps. Each entry includes a street address and step-by-step directions. Note that when following a tour, street crossings are omitted. Always continue walking on your current street until a turn is indicated. Whenever possible the tours complete a circular route but sometimes retracing your steps is required. The tour starting points have been selected to be near convenient parking.

One more thing. Consider tearing out the pages from this book when you take a tour - the book is created so that each tour can be pulled out without impugning another tour. You may find it easier to tour with just a few foldable pages in your hand than holding an entire book.

And, one really last thing. Look twice before crossing the street. So get out and look up, New York!

Look Up,

Albany



A Walking Tour of Albany...

English explorer Henry Hudson, sailing for the Dutch East India Company on the *Half Moon*, reached this area in 1609, the furthest point north that he led his expedition. The Dutch settlement that followed was strictly about commerce - mostly beaver furs shipped out of this trading post called Fort Orange that would wind up on trendy European heads. The beaver was so all-important that when it came time to name the village that grew on a small plateau by the Hudson River it became Beverwijck, the Dutch name for the luxuriously pelted rodent. When the British took over New Netherlands in 1664 the name Beverwijck was changed to honor the Duke of Albany. In 1686 Albany was formally chartered as a municipality by provincial Governor Thomas Dongan and is today the longest continually chartered city in the country.

From the beginning Albany has been a center for transportation. During the Revolutionary War it was such a prize that on February 28, 1777 Lt. General John Burgoyne submitted a plan to the British ministry called "Thoughts for Conducting the War from the Side of Canada." The ultimate goal was to sever the American states along the Hudson River by moving on Albany. It became the basis for British military strategy, a plan that was blown up by the American victory at Saratoga that October, one of history's most influential battles.

After rotating among several towns Albany was made the permanent capital in 1797 and when America's first super highway - the Erie Canal - opened the country's interior in 1825 Lock #1 was located north of Colonic Street. At the time of the next census, Albany was the 9th largest city in the United States. Furs and lumber and iron and cattle all flowed through Albany's port in great abundance. In 1831, some 15,000 canal boats tied up at city wharves. By 1865, there were almost 4,000 saw mills in the Albany area and the Albany Lumber District was the largest lumber market in the nation. There was beer, too, brewed by descendants of the Dutch settlers. Beverwyck Brewery, originally known as Quinn and Nolan was the last remaining brewer from that time when it closed in 1972. And books. Other than Boston no other city produced as many books in the 19th century as Albany. Industry would eventually scatter away from the city and today's economy is driven by the government machine.

Albany has a rich architectural heritage with representative buildings from nearly every period of American design - beginning with Dutch Colonial looks from the early 1700s. The city grew up the slope from the Hudson River and we'll start our walking tour at the top, in the midst of a complex of modern American buildings that did not arrive without a whiff of controversy...

**1. Empire State Plaza
between Madison Avenue and State
Street, Swan Street and Eagle Street**

After touring the capital city on a state visit from Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands in 1959, Governor Nelson Rockefeller said, "there's no question that the city did not look as I think the Princess thought it was going to." He set out to make certain that no future European princess might be similarly offended. Through eminent domain Rockefeller obtained 40 city blocks south of the state capitol, displacing some 9,000 residents in the process. He sketched his vision of an outdoor plaza with offices and museums and parking garages. Seventeen years and almost two billion dollars later the Plaza was complete. The International-style buildings were placed around a row of three reflecting pools in the concourse and all sheathed in marble. The 44-story, 589-foot Erastus Corning Tower, named for the long-time Albany mayor, is the tallest of the collection.

**2. The Egg
Empire State Plaza**

The construction of Albany's iconic performing arts venue began in 1966 and took twelve years to complete. The Egg appears to reside on a truncated pedestal but in fact its supporting stem reaches six stories down into the bedrock. The Egg keeps its shape by wearing a girdle - a heavily reinforced concrete beam that was poured along with the rest of the shell. The Egg houses two theaters and nary a straight line or square corner is found inside.

**WALK THROUGH THE PLAZA TO
THE NORTH END AND THE STATE
CAPITOL BUILDING.**

**3. New York State Capitol
State Street**

This is New York's third capitol building, the second in Albany. Construction began in 1867 and the official completion did not occur until the dawn of the new century in 1899. The new capitol consumed \$25 million and the talents of several of the leading architects of the day including, Thomas Fuller, Leopold Eidlitz and Henry

Hobson Richardson. The chateau-like capitol most reflects Richardson's vision, a Romanesque style that was said to be inspired by the City Hall in Paris, France. His Grand Western Staircase alone required fourteen years to complete and featured 444 steps to climb 119 feet; it became known as the Million Dollar Staircase. The building of Maine white granite is 220 feet tall at its peak although a planned central tower and dome were never built; it is one of ten U.S. state capitols that does not have a domed roof.

TURN RIGHT ON STATE STREET.

**4. General Philip H. Sheridan Statue
east lawn of Capitol**

Philip Sheridan spent his early years in and around Albany clerking in a general store before obtaining an appointment to the United States Military Academy from one of his customers, Congressman Thomas Ritchey. Sheridan enjoyed a somewhat troublesome and mediocre career at the Academy but began to distinguish himself in the Indian wars out West. On the battlefields of the Civil War he rose to the rank of Major General in charge of the cavalry in the Army of the Potomac. He became a career military man after the war and was promoted on June 1, 1888, shortly before his death, to the rank of General of the Army of the United States, the same rank achieved earlier only by Ulysses Grant and William T. Sherman.

That year John Quincy Adams Ward, the leading American sculptor of the day, began work on an equestrian statue of Sheridan that was intended for Washington, D.C. Ward labored to create a realistic depiction of the general whose taste for fine food and wine had nearly doubled his weight in later years and the rendering was eventually rejected by his family - still remembering the dashing young cavalry officer - after 17 years of work. When Albany decided to erect a statue to its nominal native son famed sculptor Daniel Chester French lobbied to use his friend Ward's old work and offered to complete its installation without pay. So, in 1916, six years after Ward's death, his decades-old tribute to Philip Sheridan took its place at the capitol building.

5. Albany Main Telephone Building
158 State Street

Cyrus Eidlitz, whose father Leopold had worked on the state capitol across the street, built an architectural practice around designing buildings for the telephone companies that were coming into power in the first decade of the 1900s. Eidlitz created most of the buildings for New York Telephone before he retired in 1911. An associate, Paul Gmelin, drew up the plans for this white terra-cotta Italian Renaissance tower in 1914. Two subsequent additions came on line in 1931 and 1967.

6. Municipal Gas Company
126 State Street

Born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, in 1869, architect Marcus Tullius Reynolds grew up with his aunt, a member of the ancient Van Rensselaer family, in Albany after his mother died in 1875. His resume included some of the city's most prominent early 20th century buildings and many classically designed banks throughout New England. This Neoclassical effort with a powerful quartet of upper story Ionic columns was executed for the gas company in 1915.

7. St. Peter's Episcopal Church
107 State Street

This is the third church for a parish that traces its roots back to 1704. The first church was a gambrel-roofed, masonry structure built in 1715 in the middle of what is now State Street just below Lodge Street. In 1802 it was replaced by a larger building that lasted 57 years. Richard Upjohn, the leading American cheerleader for the Gothic style designed this French-flavored sanctuary that was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1980. Look up to see three gargoyles, each of which weighs three tons and extend eight feet beyond the walls.

8. 74 State
74 State Street

In the early days of Albany settlement this prime real estate was controlled by the powerful Van Schaick family. In the mid-1800s a wholesale drugstore operated here, which was later expanded to five stories. In 1915 the original building was razed and replaced by the present office building, known as the Kinney and Woodward Building. The first tenant was a home furnishing store and later came a clothing emporium. In its latest incarnation it has been a luxury boutique hotel since 2007.

9. New York State Bank
69 State Street

When the present 17-story red brick office tower was erected in 1927 it replaced the original New York State Bank that had been constructed in 1803. All was removed except for the State Street facade, which now forms the main entrance. The bank was designed by Philip Hooker, one of the early notable architects in America - his name has been carved into a cornerstone. That remnant of facade enables the building to lay claim to be the oldest bank building in Albany and the oldest building in the United States erected for and continually used as a banking house.

10. Mechanics' and Farmers' Bank
63 State Street

Russell Sturgis was born in Baltimore and trained formally as an architect in Munich, Germany. He became one of the country's most respected architectural historians in the 19th century but he was a practitioner as well and this medieval castle of a bank from 1874 is one of his finest works. Constructed of brick and sandstone the building catches the eye with its corbelled corner turret and if you look down the side street you can see an ornate rose window worthy of the city's best churches. The Mechanics' and Farmers' Bank was incorporated in 1811, the third bank to be established in the city.

11. National Commercial Bank/Hampton Hotel
38 State Street

The National Commercial Bank was created in 1825 under the pen of Governor DeWitt Clinton. English-born architect Robert Williams Gibson arrived in Albany as a 27-year old in 1881 and his work in the city over the next few years, including this building, helped launch his career in New York City. After the bank left for its Neoclassical vault a bit further up at 60 State Street the Hampton Hotel was constructed in this space in 1906, using parts of the old bank building.

12. Albany Trust Company
35 State Street

Marcus T. Reynolds adapted the popular Beaux Arts style for this financial institution in 1904, four years after it organized as the first bank trust in Albany. The exterior of the brick-and-stone confection features decorative flourishes everywhere all topped by an ornate dome above the rounded corner.

CONTINUE ACROSS BROADWAY AT THE FOOT OF STATE STREET.

13. Delaware & Hudson Building/SUNY
The Plaza on State Street at Broadway

In the early 1900s six railroads served Albany with the two most important being the New York Central, which ran up the eastern bank of the Hudson River, and the Delaware & Hudson (D&H) whose tracks lined the western bank of the river. Each wanted to broadcast its strength through an appropriately grand terminal. The New York Central had been operating out of its impressive Beaux Arts Union Station just to the north for over 15 years when Colonel Leonor F. Loree, president of the D&H hired Marcus T. Reynolds in 1914 to improve his line's operations in Albany. Reynolds turned to the Flemish Gothic style, unusual for typically classical railroad terminals to create the D&H Building. Four stories high with a 13-story central tower and gussied up with slate roofs and ornamental windows, the granite structure on a

prominent location at the Hudson River could easily be mistaken by first time visitors as a state capitol building. Surmounting the tower is a large weather van modeled after Henry Hudson's *Half Moon*. In 1918 William Barnes had another tower built at the south end to house his *Albany Evening Journal*, bringing the total length of the building to 660 feet - the length of two soccer fields. Today the space is occupied by the State University of New York.

TURN LEFT AND WALK NORTH ON BROADWAY.

14. Federal Government Building
northeast corner of State Street at Broadway

After years of getting by in rented offices around town the United States Congress appropriated \$350,000 in 1872 to erect a home for the post office, custom office and other Federal offices. The site donated by the City contained the old Exchange Building which had to be removed. The design was switched from an elaborate Gothic to Italian Renaissance. Edward Ogden oversaw the construction of the fire-proof cut-granite building with mansard roof and towers on each corner. The roof was constructed of iron, copper and tin. When all was said and done and the government moved in during 1884 the final price tag was \$627,148.

LOOK TO YOUR LEFT TO SEE...

15. Home Savings Bank Building
11 Pearl Street

When it was completed in 1927, the Home Savings Bank Building was the tallest structure in Albany; it held the title for only one year and currently ranks tenth. It is, however, the city's tallest private building. The Art Deco skyscraper is distinguished by decorative metal and terracotta images of American Indians and European settlers, executed by Rene Paul Chambellan.

16. James T. Foley U.S. Courthouse
445 Broadway

This splendid Depression-era Art Deco government building opened in 1934 as the home of the post office, customs house and federal courthouse. The carved frieze that bands the building depicts the various government employees in their jobs. The eagles that command each entrance stand eight feet tall and were carved from a 17-ton block of Vermont marble. Today only the federal courts remain in the building that was named for James Thomas Foley who was appointed to the Federal Court by President Harry S. Truman in 1949 and served 40 years.

17. Union Station
575 Broadway

Henry Hobson Richardson, the most influential architect in post-Civil War America died prematurely in 1886 at the age of 47. The successors in his shop George Foster Shepley, Charles Hercules Rutan and Charles Allerton Coolidge continued the firm's work, which often included large civic projects such as railroad terminals. This one was built in 1899-1900 primarily to serve the New York Central's passenger trains, although it accommodated other lines as well. Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge turned to the newly popular Beaux Arts style for Union Terminal but retained some touches reminiscent of their celebrated mentor, including its prominent trio of entrance arches. When it opened the station was shortly receiving 96 trains per day and reached its peak during World War II with more than 120 trains arriving every day. Since 1986 the building has housed bank offices.

18. United Traction Company/Pieter Schuyler Building
600 Broadway

On November 29, 1899, the Albany Railway, the Troy City Railway, and the Watervliet Turnpike and Railroad Company merged to form the United Traction Company (UTC). Their Beaux Arts headquarters building was designed by the go-to architect on Broadway - Marcus T. Reynolds. The last street railway car rolled down Albany streets in 1946.

CROSS OVER CLINTON STREET.

19. Quackenbush House
24 Quackenush Square at Broadway

This is the oldest intact building in Albany, stretching its existence back into the 1730s. Peter Quackenbush, the founder of a prominent Hudson Valley family, was known to make bricks and it is thought that those used for this house were crafted in a brickyard on site. It has managed to dodge the wrecking ball for almost 300 years, including a brush with its busy highway exit ramp neighbor in 1969. Through its lifetime the brick structure of Dutch pedigree has served many functions, including a gas station, a tavern and, most recently, a restaurant.

20. Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center
25 Quackenbush Square at Broadway

The Visitors Center is located in parts of two brick buildings - an 1852 townhouse and the one-time Albany Pump Station. The pump station itself consists of two adjoining buildings; the first was completed in 1874 to draw water from the Hudson River, filter it and pump it under Clinton Avenue to Bleecker Reservoir, which is now Bleecker Stadium. The entire structure was completed in 1895 and operated until 1932, moving over seven billion gallons of water annually. The massive cranes, erected in 1906 and 1909, were used to repair pump engines. They are still operational and were used to install the fermentation and serving tanks for the micro-brewery that operates in the space today.

**RETURN TO CLINTON STREET
AND TURN RIGHT, WALKING AWAY
FROM THE HUDSON RIVER.**

21. The Palace Theatre
**19 Clinton Avenue at northwest corner of
Pearl Street**

When the Radio Keith Orpheum (RKO) entertainment conglomerate set out to build Albany's largest and most opulent theater in 1931 the name given the architectural style was "Austrian Baroque" but to wide-eyed patrons the design was simply jaw-dropping. John Elberson,

the leading atmospheric theater architect of the day, worked without a budget in the midst of the Great Depression to install brass chandeliers, painted murals, panelled walls and golden trimmed tapestries. Despite its sumptuous amenities the Palace was one of the first victims in a nation-wide epidemic of downtown movie palaces falling prey to television and the rise of suburban malls, closing its doors in 1969. It was resurrected as a civic auditorium and in 2003 the Palace was restored to its original appearance and re-established as a performing arts venue.

TURN LEFT ON PEARL STREET.

22. Melville House
3 Clinton Square

Anchoring the southern end of this trio of Federal-style townhouses was the family home of Herman Melville from 1834 to 1838. The author of *Moby Dick* studied and worked in Albany from 1830 until 1838.

23. First Dutch Reformed Church
110 North Pearl Street at Orange Street

The congregation of the First Church in Albany is the second oldest in the state of New York; established in 1642 to serve the Dutch inhabitants of Fort Orange, the adjacent village of Beverwyck, and the patroonship of Rensselaerswyck in general. Work on this church, the congregation's fourth, began in 1797 on plans supplied by Philip Hooker. In 1858 the building underwent extensive alterations and came away with a more Romanesque appearance. The church's oaken pulpit was carved in Holland in 1656 and is the oldest in the United States.

24. Kenmore Hotel
74 North Pearl Street

Adam Blake Jr. was the son of a slave of General Stephen Van Rensselaer III who worked his way into the reputation of being "the richest and best-known business man" in Albany County in the middle of the 19th century. Blake ran the Congree Hotel before it was demolished to make way for the New York State Capitol building in 1878 and immediately built the Kenmore. Blake

would die in 1881 at the age of 51 and the hotel was operated by his widow, Catherine, until 1887. In the 1900s the Rain-Bo Room hosted big bands and was a favorite hang-out for the notorious gangster and bootlegger Jack "Legs" Diamond. The weary hotel was renovated in the 1980s and re-born as office space.

25. Steuben Street

Steuben Street marked the northern boundary of the original settlement of Albany around which a wooden stockade wall ran. The street today is still formed from cobblestones that were carried as ballast in the holds of ships arriving in the port on the Hudson River.

TURN RIGHT ON PINE STREET.

26. St. Mary's Church
10 Lodge Street at Pine Street

Catholicism in the Empire State left New York City for the first time with the establishment of this parish in 1796. The current structure is the third St. Mary's, built in 1867 in a Romanesque Revival style by architects Charles C. Nichols and Frederick Brown who were active in church building in Albany and New England in the 1860s. The final cost was \$100,000. Its open-faced tower, completed in 1894, rises 175 feet and is topped with a weathervane of Angel Gabriel.

27. Albany City Hall
southeast corner of Pine Street and Eagle Street

Henry Hobson Richardson went straight into his playbook for this municipal building in 1881 that replaced the previous city hall, designed by Philip Hooker in 1829, that had burned down. Richardson's City Hall features many of his trademark Romanesque design elements: contrasting light and dark rough-cut stone; multiple arches, often in sets of three; groups of truncated pillars, decorative gables and a tower. In an 1885 listing of the "Ten Most Beautiful Buildings in America" by *American Architect* magazine, the Albany City Hall was on the honor roll. In 1927 the pyramidal-roofed tower was outfitted with the first municipal carillon in the

United States, equipped with 60 bells. The largest weighs 11,200 pounds.

TURN RIGHT ON EAGLE STREET.

28. New York State Court of Appeals **east side of Eagle Street between Pine and** **Columbia streets**

The New York Court of Appeals is the highest court in the state, created in 1846 to replace both the Court for the Correction of Errors and the Court of Chancery. The eight-member body set up shop in this Greek Revival building constructed of white Sing Sing marble between 1835 and 1842. Architect Henry Rector gave the entrance an imposing six-columned Ionic portico. Inside a courtroom of carved light-brown oak is more handiwork of Henry Hobson Richardson, moved here from the New York State capitol.

29. Albany County Courthouse **east side of Eagle Street at Columbia** **Street**

This granite and limestone building was constructed in the Neoclassical style popular for government buildings in 1916. Set into the slope of the hill, the Eagle Street facade shows four stories that become six as the building flows down the slope. Engaged Ionic columns wrap around the upper stories of the courthouse.

WALK ACROSS THE STREET INTO ACADEMY PARK.

30. Albany Academy **Academy Park**

Philip Hooker, who built most of the important early buildings in Albany, was responsible for this two-story brownstone education building as well. Considered by many as his master work, it features fluted Ionic pilasters, a balustraded parapet on the roof and a graceful cupola. The building eventually became known as the Joseph Henry Memorial in honor of the early student whose experiments with electromagnets helped give rise to later inventions such as the telegraph and the transmission of electricity. On the upper floors of the Academy building Henry strung

over a mile of wire and succeeded in ringing a bell through electrical induction in 1830. Henry was the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution where a statue in his honor stands outside. His likeness in Academy Park was crafted by John Flanagan and erected in 1927. You may have an example of Flanagan's work in your pocket - he designed the bust of George Washington on the quarter.

WALK OVER TO ELK STREET ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE PARK.

31. Elk Street

As government power in Albany began to cluster around Capitol Hill in the 1820s and 1830s Elk Street evolved into the city's most desirable address, populated with handsome Federal-style and Greek Revival townhomes, many of which still survive. Several New York governors made Elk Street their home before the creation of an Executive Mansion, including Governor William L. March at #2 Elk Street.

TURN LEFT ON ELK STREET AND WALK WEST, AWAY FROM THE RIVER.

32. Cathedral of All Saints **62 South Swan Street at Elk Street**

The Cathedral of All Saints was the first Episcopal cathedral in America to be conceived and built on the English model of church, hospital, convent and school. William Croswell Doane, first Bishop of Albany, set out to recreate its English prototypes right down to the ancient pavements and stones. Robert Williams Gibson was a newly minted 27-year old graduate of the Royal Academy of Arts in England when he arrived in Albany and took down America's leading architect, Henry Hobson Richardson, in a design competition for the commission of All Saints. Gibson gave the cathedral an Old World feel with its Gothic design of towers and flying buttresses. He used brick masonry and an exterior of light reddish-orange split-face sandstone from St. Lawrence County. At 320 feet in length, All Saints, whose cornerstone was laid in 1884, is the

fifth largest cathedral in the nation and twenty-ninth largest in the world. After Bishop Doane's death in 1913, all work on the cathedral ceased.

33. New York State Education

Department Building

89 Washington Avenue, between Hawk and Swan streets

The instant eye-catcher on this Beaux arts-style building is its block-long colonnade of 36 Corinthian columns facing Washington Avenue. It is the longest colonnade in America. Designed by Henry Hornbostel and opened in 1912, the first tenants were the New York State Museum and New York State Library.

34. Alfred E. Smith Building

west side of Swan Street between Washington Avenue and State Street

The broad-shouldered Art Deco skyscraper was built in 1928 to house the offices of the New York State government. You can look around the facade at street level and see the names of all 62 New York counties carved into the stone. Carrying the name of Alfred Emmanuel Smith, a popular four-term governor, this was Albany's tallest building at 388 feet for almost four decades.

TURN AROUND AND WALK BACK TO THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING AND THE START OF THE TOUR.

Look Up,

Auburn



A Walking Tour of Auburn...

As a veteran of the Revolutionary War Captain John L. Hardenbergh received a land bounty in western New York. The captain was a veteran of John Sullivan's campaign against the Iroquois in 1779 and after the war he had been a deputy under the surveyor general when the original townships in the Onondaga Military tract were mapped. Where other veterans opted for more settled communities, Hardenbergh disposed of his award in favor of a spot he knew beside the rushing waters of the Owasco River. By 1793 he had cleared some land, put up a log cabin and built a mill on the Owasco Outlet near the convergence of several early roads.

When he wasn't grinding flour Hardenbergh busied himself laying out roads and selling lots to fellow veterans. The Seneca Turnpike, providing direct connections eastward toward Albany, was operational as far west as Auburn in 1799. By 1800 the little settlement had been named Hardenbergh's Corners and boasted a post office, with couriers arriving on horseback every two weeks. By 1810 there were seventeen mills humming along the Oswaco River as it tumbled 170 feet through the community.

Early political machinations were already shaping the future of Hardenbergh's village. It was renamed Auburn in 1805 when it was tapped as the seat of power for the new Cayuga County. In 1816, the New York State legislature sited and began construction of a major state penitentiary in Auburn. Over the years the ideas for treating prisoners inside its massive limestone walls spawned the "Auburn System" by which prisoners worked together in shops and fields in strict silence, to return to their cells at night. The cheap source of local labor did much to spur the local economy until the practice was abolished in 1882.

The transportation lines, the abundant water power, and the inexpensive labor pool conspired to lure industry from established eastern markets. There were manufacturers of agricultural implements and carpets and iron works and corn starch. For a time Auburn was the center of the American silk industry, with many growers starting the cultivation of the mulberry tree. After the Civil War the seeds of the American Express Company were sown in Auburn as the Merchants Union Express Company made the town the center of a great delivery business. William G. Fargo commenced his eventful career in the transportation business as agent in the old Auburn and Syracuse Railroad freight depot on Genesee Street.

Cayuga County has applied for more state historical markers than any other county in New York and we will begin our explorations of Auburn's rich contribution to that heritage in the front yard of the town's most illustrious citizen...

1. William H. Seward House
33 South Street

1821 was a big year, his 20th, for William Seward. he was admitted to the New York State Bar that year and met his future wife, Frances Adeline Miller, who was a classmate of his sister at Troy Seminary College. Seward moved here to his wife's hometown and entered into a law partnership with his father-in-law, Judge Elijah Miller. Seward entered politics and won his first election, a state senate seat in 1830. He would later win terms as governor and United States senator and challenge for the presidency. He served as Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State and was included in the plot to assassinate the president; he was attacked in his home that day by a man named Payne who wounded him and his son. Seward survived and eventually served as Secretary of State under Andrew Johnson until 1872.

The house was built by Judge Miller in 1816 and contains mementoes from Seward's career, including letters from Lincoln. Seward often entertained dignitaries in the expanded Italianate house during the Civil War. The Seward House, now open to the public and declared a National Historic Landmark in 1964, also boasts an extensive collection of fine art on the mansion walls.

AT THE FRONT OF THE SEWARD MANSION WALK OVER TO THE SMALL PARK AT THE JUNCTION OF SOUTH STREET AND WILLIAM STREET TO SEE A LIKENESS OF THE MAN.

2. Seward Statue
Seward Park
William Street at South Street

The city was chided for its lack of recognition of William H. Seward, who brought Auburn national recognition. The oversight was rectified in 1888 with the dedication of this bronze likeness by Walter G. Robinson in the small triangular park adjacent to the Seward House.

TURN RIGHT AND WALK DOWN SOUTH STREET.

3. Kings & Queens Court
63-65 South Street

Two Civil War-era houses were razed for the construction of these paired Colonial Revival mansions. Queens Court at #63, constructed for financier Fred Fay and his wife Flora, boasts a full front gable with a round window highlighted by floral laurels. Kings Court features a rooftop balustrade. Both buildings are wrapped in corner stone quoins and have a small second story iron balcony over a center entrance. After the Fays passed in the 1930s the buildings were converted into multi-unit housing.

TURN AND WALK BACK DOWN SOUTH STREET TOWARDS THE CENTER OF TOWN.

4. Sartwell House
44 South Street

South Street was laid out within two years of the founding of the community, before 1800, and gradually stretched away from town. Today it retains its historical residential appearance with substantial houses set back on large lots. Some of Auburn's largest estates were carved out along South Street and also one of its most historic - abolitionist Harriet Tubman had her last home at 180 South Street where she died at age 90 in 1914.

This is a fine example of Italianate residence, rendered in brick. It sports prominent stone quoins, arched window heads and thick roof brackets. Henry J. Sartwell built the house in the 1860s. Sartwell operated a dry goods store in Auburn and later manufactured shoes and boots.

5. Hutchinson-Nellis House
40-42 South Street

Like many properties in mid-19th century Auburn this Italianate structure, sans the later porch addition, was developed as a duplex. The tall windows, low hipped roof and overhanging eaves supported by carved brackets are all hallmarks of the style.

6. Memorial City Hall
24 South Street

David Munson Osbourne left the family farm at the age of 15 and scraped around until striking it rich manufacturing agricultural machinery. One of Auburn's most respected citizens, Osbourne served three terms as mayor (1877–1880); a position later held by both his son and one of his grandsons. His youngest daughter Helen, born in 1864, grew up to become an early leader of the Girl Scouts; her husband James J. Storrow, a prominent banker was the second national president of the Boy Scouts of America.

In the 1920s the city hall in Auburn was crumbling so Helen and her sister Emily Osborne Harris built this one as a memorial to their father. The historical Boston architectural firm of Coolidge, Shepley, Bullfinch and Abbott decorated their three-story Colonial Revival brick building with a classical portico and corner Ionic pilasters. Inside, the high ceilings, stenciling, wood paneling, marble accents, and ornate City Council chamber is modeled on an old Boston courtroom. The new city hall was dedicated on April 5, 1930.

7. Schine Theater
12-14 South Street

Junius Myer Schine began his career peddling candy and dresses and parlayed his profits into purchasing a roller rink in Gloversville, New York. From there he and his brother Louis built a fiefdom of hotels and movie houses across the country. "The Auburn" was the third foray for the Schines in the city and they brought their best. Atmospheric theater architect John Eberson delivered an outer space-themed Art Deco appearance to the theater and a parade and festivities were planned for the grand opening on September 15, 1938. Most of the city's schools and businesses shut down at noon so people could take in the spectacle.

The Schines sold the entirety of their holdings in 1965 for a reported \$150 million and The Auburn suffered through a succession of ever-more negligent owners until it shuttered in 1979. For many years its only connection to the movies was as a video store. In February 1998 the Cayuga County Arts Council purchased the vacant building and began rehabilitating the property.

8. Auburn Savings Bank/Phoenix Building
2 South Street at Genesee Street

The Auburn Savings Bank was organized with the new year in 1849. This building was raised at the most prominent spot in town in 1875. In its original form it was a grand Second Empire structure with a mansard roof that rolled around the corner. Today, known as the Phoenix building, the ground floor has been completely compromised and the mansard roof removed. The altering of the top floor caused the clock tower to be shortened; the tower has also lost its original iron cresting.

TURN LEFT ON GENESEE STREET.

9. National Bank of Auburn
120 Genesee Street

Nathaniel Garrow came to Auburn as a 16-year old in 1796 and made a living as a wood chopper and fur trader. In 1809 he was appointed justice of the peace and won election as Cayuga County sheriff in 1815. In 1816 he founded the Bank of Auburn Bank in Demaree's Tavern. Garrow would go on to be elected to the Twentieth Congress in 1827. This Neoclassical headquarters was constructed for the bank in 1927, featuring stout fluted Doric columns.

TURN LEFT ON DILL STREET.

10. Saint Mary's Church
15 Clark Street at Dill Street

The parish organized in 1868, meeting in a temporary wooden structure that cost \$800 and was known as the "Shanty Church." A more fitting edifice was underway with a cornerstone laying ceremony on September 18, 1870. The architect was the go-to designer for the Catholic Church, Patrick Keely; he designed nearly six hundred churches and every 19th century cathedral in New England. St. Mary's Church building is an excellent example of modified Gothic architecture, a style characterized by great point and height, with delicacy and precision in design. The edifice, built entirely of gray limestone, is 135 feet long and the ceiling is 65 feet high.

TURN RIGHT ON GENESEE STREET.

11. U.S. Post Office and Courthouse 151-157 Genesee Street

This monumental civic building appeared on the Auburn streetscape between 1888 and 1890. It was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style that was the rage for government buildings at the time. The rough-hewn limestone, multi-hued materials, powerful entrance arches and corner tower are all design trademarks pioneered by Henry Hobson Richardson, the most influential of America's post-Civil War architects. The massive, asymmetrical, two and a half story main block is one of a number of post offices in New York State designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, Mifflin E. Bell. The building was supplused by the federal government in the 1980s and acquired by Cayuga County.

12. Cayuga County Court House 152-154 Genesee Street

Thanks to its central location in the newly formed Cayuga County, Auburn was designated the county seat in 1805. By 1809 a wooden frame courthouse costing \$10,000 had been erected on this site. In the 1830s architect John Hagan was retained to design a new courthouse and he delivered plans for a two-story Greek temple with a Doric portico of six fluted columns and a large dome. Constructed of limestone the new courthouse, with a price tag of \$30,000, was finished in 1836. In 1922 a fire destroyed the dome and gutted most of the interior; it was rebuilt in a Neoclassical style. Another renovation in 1979 connected the courthouse to the adjacent old County Clerks Building, a Victorian brick structure of 1882.

13. Saints Peter and John Episcopal Church 169 Genesee Street

The original church was erected in 1811, the first to be built in Auburn. The current building was constructed between 1868 and 1870 on plans drawn by Henry Dudley, an English-born architect known for his Gothic Revival churches. It is constructed of rock faced limestone laid in ran-

dom ashlar and trimmed with dressed limestone. The 200-year old site now contains the church, a 1930s stone parish house built in complementary Gothic Revival style, and a cemetery where the first burials took place in 1812.

14. Edwin R. Fay Mansion 174 Genesee Street

Edwin Reed Fay, born in Aurelius in 1829, left the Cayuga County family farm for business pursuits in town and by 1868 was engaged in the manufacture of gloves and mittens. In 1892 he founded the private banking house of Edwin R. Fay & sons with his two sons, Fred and Charles. Edwin, who was also president of the Auburn Savings Bank, died at the age of 100 in 1930. He is buried at Fort Hill Cemetery in the only above-ground crypt in the graveyard.

15. Seymour Library 176-178 Genesee Street

When James S. Seymour died in 1875 at the age of 84 his list of bequests was so substantial that they were printed in the *New York Times*. Included were gifts to churches, schools, and houses for the needy. Today he is most remembered for funding the Auburn Memorial Library and the Seymour Library. Seymour began his career as a bank clerk in Hartford, Connecticut and came to Auburn in 1817, becoming president of the Bank of Auburn, a post he would hold for 58 years.

Beginning with Seymour's the first books were lent on a subscription basis in 1876 from the second floor of the Auburn Savings Bank. In the 1890s Willard E. Case offered to donate some of the Case family money, accumulated through the Oswego Starch Company, banks and railroads, to construct a permanent home for the library. The New York City architectural firm of Carrere and Hastings, who would contribute many classical designs to Washington D.C., drew up plans for this Beaux Arts inspired building. With interior woodwork fashioned by European craftsmen, the Case Memorial began housing the Seymour Library in 1903.

16. Cayuga Museum of History and Art
203 Genesee Street

This grand Greek Revival brick mansion was built in 1836 by John Seymour. But he couldn't pay for it. In the 1840s it was sold to Sylvester Willard, a physician from Bristol, Connecticut who emigrated with his wife Jane Frances Case, two daughters, Georgiana and Carolina, and in-laws Erastus and Mary Case to Auburn. Sylvester Willard and Erastus Case were original partners in the creation of the Oswego Starch Company in 1848, joining with other Auburn men in backing Thomas Kingsford in processing corn into starch. The Kingsford starch factory would grow into the world's largest of its kind.

In 1916 Theodore E. Case built a small laboratory on the foundations of the estate greenhouse. Here he developed the Thallofide tube that was originally used by the United States Navy in a top secret infrared signaling system. In 1921 he started work on a process that would bring sound to film. The introduction of "talkies" made Theodore Case a wealthy man and built the largest house in town at 108 South Street, a magnificent Tudor-style mansion. This house became a private school and in 1936 the Case family donated it for use as a museum. The Case Research Lab also remains on the property.

TURN LEFT ON ROSS PLACE. TURN LEFT ON WOODLAWN AVENUE. TURN RIGHT ON FORT STREET.

17. Bradley Memorial Chapel
19 Fort Street

The main entrance to the Fort Hill Cemetery is graced by this stone chapel modeled on the St. Buryan country church in Cornwall, England. The chapel was crafted by Julius A. Schweinfurth who was born in Auburn in 1858. Three of the four Schweinfurth boys became architects of some renown, Charles in Cleveland, Julius in Boston, and Albert in San Francisco. He died in 1931 and proceeds from his trust funded the Schweinfurth Art Center on Genesee Street.

The chapel was created as a memorial to Silas Bradley in 1893, replacing the original wooden lodge here. Connecticut-born Bradley arrived in Auburn in 1837 at the age of 20 and rapidly estab-

lished himself as a leading merchant in town. In 1877 he became president of the National Bank of Auburn, a position he held until his death in 1883.

18. Fort Hill Cemetery
19 Fort Street

The first burials in this graveyard took place in 1851. The fort of "Fort Hill" was a garrisoned village of the Cayuga Indians. The cemetery features a 56-foot high limestone obelisk monument to Chief Logan, famed chief of the Cayugas. Many notables are interred here, including William Seward, 12th Governor of New York, United States Senator and United States Secretary of State, and celebrated Union spy and abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Most of the town's leading citizens were laid to rest here as well.

AFTER VISITING THE CEMETERY RETURN TO THE ENTRANCE AND TURN RIGHT ON WESTLAKE STREET. TURN LEFT ON WILLIAM STREET.

19. Westminster Presbyterian Church
17 William Street

Slavery led to a rift in the Presbyterian church that resulted in the founding of this congregation in 1861. Harriet Tubman would be married in the chapel in 1869 and that year the church laid the cornerstone of the present sanctuary on land purchased from William Seward. Today's appearance dates to the late 1890s and a makeover in the multi-hued, rough-faced stone manner of the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

WALK ACROSS THE STREET AND TURN RIGHT TO RETURN TO THE SEWARD ESTATE AND THE BEGINNING OF THE TOUR.

Look Up,

Batavia



A Walking Tour of Batavia...

Batavia, is the largest town in Genesee County, both in point of territory and population, and sited practically at its center. The original town of Batavia included practically the entire Holland Purchase, a swath of three million acres bought from Continental Army financier Robert Morris. The lands from that purchase would eventually form ten New York counties. The town was formed by act of the Legislature, March 30, 1802. Batavia village, the county seat, is situated in the east half of the town and was founded in 1802 by Joseph Ellicott, surveyor and sub-agent for the land company.

Ellicott erected an office from which to direct his operations at the junction of the old Genesee Road and Tonawanda Creek, where two great Indian trails crossed. Ellicott proposed naming the place Bustia or Bustville after the company's general agent, Paul Busti but the honoree demurred, objecting that it sounded a tad ferocious, and proposed Batavia, the name of the Dutch republic to which the proprietors belonged.

Batavia's early promise as a distribution hub in western New York was dashed when it was bypassed by the routers of the Erie Canal. Several decades later those hopes were rekindled when the railroads came through, following those old trade routes. Batavia developed into a lively industrial and trading center. Smack in the center of a bustling agricultural area, the town became known for the manufacture of tractors and agricultural implements with the largest manufacturer, Johnson Harvester Company setting up shop in 1868. Other products produced here included ladies' shoes, paper boxes, shoe dyes and polishes, and flavoring extracts.

Batavia followed a familiar script in the 20th century - industries drifted away, downtown shriveled up, buildings sacrificed. In 1982 a core of civic buildings, including Joseph Ellicott's land office, were declared a United States historic district. That's where our explorations will center and we'll begin at a small downtown park right next door...

**1. Austin Park
Jefferson Avenue**

This was the Brisbane estate in the 1800s and when the town acquired the property it became a public park, named not for the Brisbanes but for George Austin, a local jeweler who bequeathed funds for its development. Harold L. Olmsted, an architect and landscape designer who practiced for some 70 years in western New York drew up plans for the public greenspace that opened in 1931.

EXIT THE PARK FROM THE
SOUTHEAST CORNER ONTO
JEFFERSON AVENUE AND TURN
RIGHT. WALK DOWN TO MAIN
STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

**2. United States Post Office
2 West Main Street**

The first mail was delivered in Batavia in 1802 but the town never had a dedicated postal facility until this Neoclassical post office with recessed arch windows was erected by the federal government in 1919. It is notable for its fine English bond brickwork and the unusual parallelogram shape dictated by its lot shape.

**3. Brisbane Mansion
10 West Main Street**

James Brisbane was a New Englander who came west as one of the town's original settlers. He would become the village's first merchant and first postmaster and one of the area's wealthiest landowners. Son George constructed this two-story brick Italianate-style mansion in 1853. The Brisbane family donated the family home to the city and assumed it would be razed for a city park. But about the same time old Ellicott Hall that was serving as city headquarters went up in flames. Frank Homelius drew up plans for remodeling the mansion for use as a new city hall without adversely altering the original architecture. The Brisbane Mansion debuted as City Hall on September 28, 1918 and continued its run into 2004, by which time the property landed on the National Register of Historic

Places. The family's most illustrious member, Arthur Brisbane, was William Randolph Hearst's companion and confidante in the nation's largest newspaper chain.

**4. Genesee County Sheriff's Office and Jail
14 West Main Street**

This two-story brick structure has served the county as a sheriff's office for over 100 years and looks like it has been doing duty for about 300 more. Poughkeepsie architect William J. Beardsley designed the Victorian Gothic building in 1903 with turrets to resemble a fortress, similar to the nearby Attica Correctional Facility which is another of his designs. He used locally quarried red Medina sandstone to craft his five turrets, raised foundation, arches, and corner quoins.

CROSS MAIN STREET AND TURN
RIGHT, WALKING UP TO THE
HOLLAND LAND OFFICE MUSEUM.

**5. Holland Land Office Museum
131 West Main Street**

After the American Revolution the new United States suddenly had millions of acres of land available. Much of these western lands were disposed of as a reward to war veterans and plenty more attracted the attention of land speculators. European investors, having the capital lacked by many Americans, bought up much land. The Holland Land Co. was one of the largest of these, formed in 1796 to purchase and resell millions of acres west of the Genesee River.

In 1815 Joseph Ellicott, surveyor and local agent for the company, built at Batavia the third and last land office of the company. He chose a spot in a bend of the Tonawanda Creek and used cut gray limestone 20 inches thick for the small Federal-style building. Vaults secured by half-inch thick, nine-foot tall metal doors secured the valuable papers of the company's holdings that included about 3.3 million acres. The large land sales declined in the coming decades and the company liquidated in the 1840s. The old land office found no new uses and fell into ruins but in 1894 it was rescued by the Holland Purchase Historical Society and became an early example of preservation.

TURN AND WALK EAST ON MAIN STREET, BACK TO THE HEART OF THE COURTHOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT.

**6. Municipal Building
3 West Main Street**

The core of this building was constructed in 1885 as a water works that would pump water from Tonawanda Creek into the town water mains. Henry Homelius drew up the plans for a small two-room brick building to house the pumps and he was called back in 1893 to convert the facility into a power station for Batavia's emerging electric needs. The Romanesque towers and intricate brickwork patterns were added in 1906. A sewer works was added in 1912 which contributed to an explosion that ripped through the building.

For many years thereafter the Municipal Building only housed pumping equipment again until 1948 when it was renovated for use as a fire station. In 1978 the fire department moved to new digs on Evans Street and the building's nearly 100 years of service to the city was at an end. Saved from the wrecking ball, the hulking brick landmark emerged as a popular restaurant for many years before falling into disuse. Once again spared demolition, it was purchased by Genesee County for \$250,000 at a foreclosure auction in 1996 and is still writing chapters in its evolving history of service.

**7. Upton Monument
Ellicott and Main streets**

Charles A. Worden designed this granite memorial in 1919 to honor the soldiers and sailors from Genesee County who served in the Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War I. A winged bronze eagle surmounts the 36-foot high obelisk and the west-facing soldier has come to be accepted as General Emory Upton, although there is no evidence that his likeness was intended for the memorial.

Upton was one of ten children born on a farm near Batavia and won an appointment to West Point where he graduated 8th in his class in 1861. During the Civil War he served with such distinction commanding the artillery,

infantry and cavalry that he he was brevetted on the field as a brigadier-general in 1864 at the age of 25. Celebrated as the finest tactician of the war, Upton enjoyed a post-war career as a West Point teacher, field commander and author. Plagued by headaches, possibly caused by a brain tumor, Upton shot himself in the head while in command of 4th U.S. Artillery at the Presidio of San Francisco in 1881 when he was only 41.

BEAR RIGHT ON
ELLICOTT STREET.

**8. St. Marys Roman Catholic Church
18 Ellicott Street**

Circuit-riding priests ministered to the area's Catholics beginning in 1817 and in 1849 St. Joseph's Parish was organized. St. Mary's was founded in 1904 to serve the west side of Batavia. John H. Copeland designed the Gothic-flavored church building and local contractor John Pickert constructed the building of rusticated Medina sandstone. The stained glass windows, depicting the life of Mary, Mother of Jesus, were designed by Leo P. Frohe, from the Art Glass Studio in Buffalo. The first mass was held on February 19, 1906.

CROSS ELLICOTT STREET INTO
THE COURTHOUSE TRIANGLE.

**9. Genesee County Courthouse
7 Main Street at point of Ellicott Street**

The first courthouse constructed in this triangle, and the first courthouse built west of the Genesee River, was constructed under the supervision of Joseph Ellicott in 1802. The building, that contained the courts and jail, burned to the ground in 1918. By that time, however, it had long been replaced by this splendid structure, five bays square and constructed of locally quarried heavy gray Onondaga limestone. The courthouse, constructed upon Greek Revival lines, was in service by 1843. The brass bell in the cupola hung in the original courthouse and was salvaged from the 1918 fire.

10. Genesee County Building #1
Main and Court streets

The architectural firm of Bockacket & Brew drew the plans for this two-and-a-half-story, 13-bay brick building that replaced the historic Ellicott Hall, the original county courthouse, that burned in 1918. The Neo-Georgian office building is trimmed in sandstone with lintels, keystones above the windows, corner quoins and a balustrade at the roof. A recessed entrance is flanked by fluted pilasters. The entire building was completed at a cost of \$150,000 and opened on July 6, 1927.

EXIT THE COURTHOUSE
COMPLEX ONTO MAIN STREET
AND TURN RIGHT.

11. Batavia Club
201 East Main at northeast corner of
Bank Street

This remarkable building stands today not only as the first bank built west of the Genesee River but as one of the few remaining examples of a Federal-style commercial building in New York from the 1830s. It is also one of only two extant works of Rochester architect-builder Hezekiah Eldredge in the state. Eldredge, who was commissioned by the Bank of Genesee to design the building, went to Cleveland to become one of that city's most prominent early architects. The construction of the symmetrical brick building with parapets on either end went well over its exorbitant \$6,000 budget in 1831. All windows have plain stone sills and lintels; on the front facade they are additionally flanked by paired wooden colonettes. The main entrance, with sidelights, is similarly decorated and topped with a heavy wooden bracketed flat-roofed hood. In 1886 the bank sold its building to the Batavia Club.

12. Mancuso Theater
210 East Main Street

This movie house opened as the Mancuso Theater in 1946, with a single screen and seating for 1,650. It was later twinned in an effort to stave off extinction - the fate of most American

downtown theaters in the late 1900s. Today the converted theater has been reborn as a church. Look up to see the molded remnants of the theater's fanciful facade.

13. First Presbyterian Church
300 East Main Street

This was the first congregation to organize in Batavia, as a Congregationalist group in 1809. By 1818 they were Presbyterians. The Gothic Revival sanctuary, composed of rock-cut limestone blocks, came along in 1855. The entrances are heavy wooden lancet arched doors with beveled lead glass panels set in angled reveals. Enlargements in various architectural styles came along over the next century as the church grew to a peak of over 1,400 congregants.

14. First Baptist Church
306 East Main Street

The Baptists organized in Batavia on July 8, 1834 and eventually adopted the title of "Baptist Society of Batavia village." In 1877 the society reorganized and took its present name. This church building was constructed in 1890-91 and reflects elements of the then-popular Richardsonian Romanesque style pioneered by legendary architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Among the hallmarks of the style on display here are contrasting light and dark rough-hewn stone, in this case Medina sandstone and Albion redstone, arched windows, often in groups of three, and corner towers. The turreted tower here camouflages a chimney stack.

15. St. James Episcopal Church
405 East Main Street

St. James Episcopal Church was organized June 6, 1815 with a house of worship coming along in 1822. The current sanctuary is an early Neo-Gothic style church constructed in 1908, fashioned from random ashlar sandstone and featuring a square bell tower. Church offices are located in an adjacent two story, Tudor Revival style wing. The rectory, constructed in 1929, is a two story Tudor Revival house with an attached garage.

WALK BACK TO ROSS STREET AND
TURN RIGHT.

16. Richmond Memorial Library
19 Ross Street

Whereas the First Baptist church hinted at the Richardsonian Romanesque style in its building, the Richmond Library is a full-blown example, highlighted by the powerful arched stone recessed entrance. The building is constructed of rough-hewn light gray Fredonia sandstone and trimmed out in red Albion stone. The library was completed on March 12, 1889, the gift of Mary E. Richmond in memory of her youngest child, Dean, Jr., who had died at the age of 31 in 1885.

Vermont-born Dean Richmond came with his family at an early age to Syracuse where the Richmonds engaged in the salt trade. In 1818 his father died when he was only 14. Nevertheless, Richmond expanded the salt business until by 1842 he moved to Buffalo where he established a commission and transportation business, becoming one of the wealthiest and most influential citizens of the Great Lakes region. He became director of the Utica and Buffalo Railroad Company and, when Erastus Corning retired, he was elected president of the New York Central Railroad Company, America's largest corporation. While president Richmond decreed that all trains, even expresses, must stop in Batavia. Dean and Mary Richmond lived in a palatial estate on Main Street before his death in 1866; the library is sited on part of their land. The grand mansion fronted by a Greek Ionic portico was razed for a parking lot.

TURN LEFT ON
WASHINGTON AVENUE.

**17. Batavia Public Schools Administration
Building**
39 Washington Avenue

The current administration building stands as the only public school building in Batavia constructed in the 1800s. It was designed and built in 1885 by Henry Homelius, the go-to architect for important local buildings and the first of three generations of builders in Batavia. His son Frank gave the building its present Colonial appearance in 1904; children were educated here until 1956.

18. St. Paul Lutheran Church
31 Washington Avenue

This is the third meetinghouse for the congregation that organized in 1873. The brick church with an English Gothic look dates to 1952.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO
THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT
AUSTIN PARK.

Look Up,

Binghamton



A Walking Tour of Binghamton...

The two most important names in Binghamton's early history were William Bingham and Joshua Whitney. Bingham was a wealthy Philadelphia banker who after 1792 owned the land around the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chenango rivers. He dreamed of developing a busy trading village at such a favored location and to that end hired Whitney to be his land agent. Whitney worked tirelessly to build the new settlement; he laid out street plans, he constructed the first courthouse and erected the first bridge over the Susquehanna River. Bingham died in 1804 and never got around to actually visiting the area but his name was on the deed so the town was named for him once the original name of Chenango Point was wiped away. Nothing was named for Whitney who did most of the work building the place.

Already a busy crossroads town, Binghamton's stature as a transportation hub was enhanced further in 1837 with the opening of the Chenango Canal that linked the town to the Erie Canal. The first great business to appear was cigar-making and Binghamton became the nation's second largest supplier of cigars, behind only New York City. More than 5,000 workers were employed rolling over 100 million cigars a year. But there were other products as well; by the end of the 1800s over 200 hundred different types of products were being shipped from Binghamton.

About that time, in 1890, a leather supplier from Dedham, Massachusetts arrived in Binghamton and bought into a distressed Lester Brothers Shoe Company. Henry B. Endicott sold enough boots to turn a small profit, but he was dissatisfied with his manager. A foreman from the Lester days applied for the job and stated confidently that he would work for nothing for one year if he did not show results. With George F. Johnson handling the manufacturing and Endicott the finances, the firm of Endicott-Johnson became the largest shoe company in the world, employing 20,000 workers in the area. By the time George Johnson stepped down in 1930, Endicott-Johnson had sold its one billionth shoe.

Binghamton's population peaked in the 1950s with over 80,000 and about that time the city energetically embraced the urban renewal craze transforming America. The result is that the city spent the last half of the 20th century losing both people and buildings. To see what remains our walking tour will explore both sides of the Chenango River; the West Side where wealthy Binghamtonians constructed lavish mansions and the east bank where business and government have clustered for over 200 years and we will begin our double loop, figure-eight exploration where all city roads lead...

1. Broome County Courthouse
92 Court Street

This is the fourth county courthouse and the third on this site. Go to Binghamton architect Isaac G. Perry provided the classical design as a replacement for its predecessor that burned in 1896. Perry used Ohio sandstone trimmed with bluestone under a copper dome that rises from a central octagonal base. In front of the courthouse resides a statue of Daniel S. Dickinson, executed by A. G. Newman. At the Democratic National Convention of 1852 Dickinson refused the nomination of to be his party's candidate to run for the Presidency out of loyalty to General Lewis Cass, to whom he was pledged.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE
COURTHOUSE, TURN LEFT ON
COURT STREET AND WALK WEST
TOWARDS THE CHENANGO RIVER.

2. Perry Building
**91 Court Street at northwest corner of
Chenango Street**

Vermont-born Isaac Gale Perry began his working life as a carpenter designing and building staircases for his father. He fancied architecture more, however, and went to New York City to try his luck designing buildings. He became acquainted with Joseph Edward Turner, a physician who was establishing America's first asylum for the treatment of alcoholism, the New York State Inebriate Asylum in Binghamton. Despite his lack of experience Turner campaigned for the 36-year old Perry to be named architect on the project and personally vouched for him with the Board of Trustees. The asylum took years to complete and Perry relocated to Binghamton from where he became one of New York's most in demand designers. His plans were used for armories and courthouses and official buildings across New York - a roster that included the completion of the State Capitol building in Albany in 1883. Isaac Perry continued to work past his 80th birthday. This spectacular cast-iron building, the only example in Binghamton, was completed in 1876. Considered his masterwork, the top floor also served as the self-taught architect's residence.

3. City National Bank
49 Court Street at Washington Street

The City National Bank was started December 2, 1852 with a capital stock of two hundred thousand dollars. They first occupied this corner of Court and Washington streets, then considered one of the handsomest and most substantial blocks in the city of Binghamton, in 1856. It continued as a State bank until 1865 when it became the City National Bank. In 1923 the institution moved into this Neoclassical, multi-columned vault.

TURN RIGHT ONTO THE
WASHINGTON STREET
PEDESTRIAN MALL AT THE
METRO CENTRE.

4. Sidewalk of the Stars
Metro Center
Court Street at Washington Street

Binghamton's "Sidewalk of the Stars" began with a bronze star dedicated to native son and *Twilight Zone* creator Rod Serling in 1990. After Serling's star was installed a committee formed to screen other nominations to join the legendary Hollywood writer on the sidewalk. The cost to cast and set each bronze star was \$2,100 - paid for by the honoree.

5. Ellis Brothers Fine Home Furnishings
159-161 Washington Street

Ellis Brothers has provided furniture and carpets for the home for over a century, beginning in 1900.

RETURN TO COURT STREET AND
TURN RIGHT, CONTINUING
TOWARDS THE CHENANGO RIVER.

6. American Cigar Company
north side of Main Street at Water Street

In the 19th and early 20th centuries there were 4,495 cigar factories in the state of New York - 1,875 in lower Manhattan alone. Binghamton boasted some 50 cigar manufacturers and seven

of them were major players in the trade. In 1901 the American Cigar Company was also formed to combine the efforts of many of the cigar rollers and these buildings were at the heart of Binghamton's tobacco industry. By the 1920s machine-made cigars began to dominate the industry and hastened American Cigar's departure from the banks of the Chenango River.

CROSS THE RIVER AND WALK
UP TO THE CORNER AT FRONT
STREET.

7. First Congregational Church
30 Main Street at Front Street

David Brownson built a public house on this corner in 1809, later to be owned by Samuel Peterson. It was in Peterson's Tavern in 1834 that a meeting was held that led to the incorporation of Binghamton as a village. Once overflowing with stage coach travelers, the tavern business slacked off with the construction of the Chenango Canal and the steam railroads directly on its heels. In 1859 the wooden tavern burned and this brick church was designed by Isaac Perry and constructed in 1869.

TURN LEFT ON FRONT STREET.

8. Binghamton Club
83 Front Street

The Binghamton Club formed with a gathering of 46 city businessmen in 1880, beginning meetings in rented rooms in the City National Bank. After a peripatetic existence around the city the Club settled into a permanent home in 1925 in a newly constructed Neo-Georgian club house on the grounds of the former Abbott estate.

9. Free Will Baptist Church
80 Front Street

This was the Emmanuel Church of the Evangelical Association when it was constructed in 1884. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the wood frame building with steep gable and square bell tower is a distinctive example of ecclesiastical architecture built to serve Bingham-

ton's working class German-American immigrant population.

10. The Hoyt Foundation
70 Front Street

After Willma Cornell and Stewart Hoyt married in 1907 they moved in with her parents in this house where they lived for many years. Childless, the Hoyts established the Hoyt Foundation with assets based on their early investments in IBM after they passed in their 90s. Since 1971, grants to the people of Broome County from the Hoyt Foundation have totaled over \$21 million, from folks who lived everyday ordinary lives.

TURN RIGHT ON LEROY STREET.

11. St. Patrick's Catholic Church
9 Leroy Street

The first Catholic family in Binghamton was recorded in 1835. When a visiting priest from Pottsville, Pennsylvania arrived in town there was no church to hold services and Joshua Whitney, one of the prime movers and shakers in town, offered use of the Christ Episcopal Church he attended but church law forbade such a practice. So Whitney, who built the first Courthouse and a bridge over the Susquehanna River, helped establish the Catholic parish in town as well. The present St. Patrick's church, designed by Isaac Perry, was finished and dedicated on September 28, 1873. Costing about \$170,000, it was celebrated as one of the finest church buildings to yet appear in the southern tier.

RETURN TO FRONT STREET AND
TURN RIGHT.

12. Davidge Mansion
31 Front Street

Sherwood B. Davidge was in the tanning business, a seemingly dull, low-tech industry in the go-go days of the late 19th century when fantastic inventions were coming along at a rapid pace. Davidge had extensive land holdings, however, and he realized a sizable fortune when he sold his interests to the United States Leather Company in 1894. He removed to Binghamton in 1903

and constructed this symmetrical Neoclassical home with its spectacular circular portico of the Corinthian order. He lived out his life in low-key fashion in the house, attending board meetings with the dozens of companies and clubs he was affiliated with until his death in 1911 at the age of 68. A distinguished, if unremarkable, career. Or so it seemed.

But it turns out the tanning business wasn't so dull after all. One hundred years after his death, Davidge's dealings came to light in the modern land rush for natural gas rights in northern Pennsylvania. It turns out that Davidge and his partner T.B. Crary sold 13,000 acres of land not to United States Leather Company but to a shell company called Union Tanning Company. But that was only to the surface rights. The two retained the mineral rights, presumably to be passed on to the more powerful United States Leather Company in exchange for stock. But no one knows. The mineral rights weren't included in either's last will and testament and documentation on any deal was lost in United Leather's bankruptcy years later. In 2010, a century after Davidge's death, those rights are worth many multiple millions of dollars in the pursuit of gas buried within the Marcellus Shale. For whomever wins the court battle.

Sherwood Davidge's mansion is undergoing a possession crisis at the same time. It was purchased by the Roberson museum across the street in 1993 with a grant from the Dr. G. Clifford and Florence B. Decker Foundation to be used as offices and exhibition space but the museum is seeking to rid itself of the property.

13. Roberson Mansion **30 Front Street**

Alonzo Roberson brought his family to Binghamton in the early 1850s. A skilled craftsman who was as handy with a ledger book as he was with a carpenter's square, Roberson was soon able to purchase the Marsh and Gilbert Lumber Company. There was plenty of building going on around Binghamton at the time and the business prospered greatly. By the time Alonzo, Jr. was in charge of the firm he was able to part with \$107,500 in 1904 to move to prestigious Front Street. Architect C. Edward Vosbury designed an Italian Renaissance palace for the Robersons that was outfitted with all the modern conveniences

of the day and included a ballroom on the third floor. The entire compound was placed behind a wrought-iron fence provided by Titchener Iron Works. By the time Alonzo Roberson, Jr. died in 1934 he had added the chairmanship of the Marine Midland Bank to his resume and was able to bequeath his estate to create an "educational center ...for the use and benefit of all people." The Roberson Museum and Science Center opened in 1954.

TURN LEFT ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE AND CROSS MEMORIAL BRIDGE.

14. Confluence Park **North Shore Drive at Susquehanna River and Chenango River**

The South Washington Street Bridge across the Susquehanna River that anchors the park is one of New York's most historic spans, built in 1886 by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company of Connecticut on their own patented design. Called a lenticular truss bridge, it takes its name from the lens-like shape of the span. Here there are three spans making the Washington Street bridge not only one of the finest examples of the design but one of the longest as well. Restored for pedestrian use, the bridge retains its original railings and much of its ornamentation, including the Berlin company builder plaque.

The monument in the park was erected in 1925 to honor Broome county veterans of the 1898 Spanish-American War. *The Skirmisher* was created by Robert Aitken.

TURN LEFT ON WASHINGTON STREET. TURN RIGHT ON STUART STREET.

15. Broome County Veterans Memorial Arena **1 Stuart Street at State Street**

After a nationwide design competition the Veterans Memorial Arena opened in 1973, providing a center for sports, concerts, expos and events. The 6,800-seat arena is the home for the American Hockey League's Binghamton Senators.

TURN LEFT ON STATE STREET.
TURN RIGHT ON HAWLEY STREET.

16. Binghamton State Office Building
Government Plaza - 44 Hawley Street

The 18-story State Office Building became the centerpiece of Binghamton's massive urban renewal plan when it rose in 1972. It is the tallest building in the city and the tallest in New York's Southern Tier. On February 5, 1981 a transformer explosion in the basement contaminated the entire building with toxic PCBs. It would take 13 years to completely remove the deadly residue from "Toxic Tower." The bill for the clean-up was \$53 million - three times the total cost to build the tower.

TURN LEFT ON COLLIER STREET.

17. City Hall
79-96 Collier Street

The Binghamton municipal government greeted the new 20th century in this French Renaissance confection designed by Raymond Francis Almirall in 1898. The five-story building is constructed of rusticated native limestone supporting a slate roof punctuated by ornate dormers and topped with a copper clad cupola. The Latin words beneath the exuberant cornice translate to "Let justice be done though the heavens fall." The government stayed until 1972 and the building has been refitted as a hotel.

18. Binghamton Savings Bank
99 Collier Street

The Binghamton Savings Bank took its first deposits in the Ely Building with Horace S. Griswold as president. After two more stops around town the trustees were able to purchase land next to the new City Hall and move into the first home of their own - a three-bay, five-story facade of red and cream brick with cut-stone detailing.

WALK PAST THE COURT HOUSE
ON YOUR RIGHT, CROSS COURT
STREET AND ENTER CHENANGO
STREET.

19. First National Bank of Binghamton
95 Court Street at Chenango Street

The First National Bank of Binghamton was organized Dec. 19, 1863; this triangular Neoclassical vault was constructed in 1929. It features dual fluted Ionic columns, elaborate fenestration and a stone balustrade at the roof.

20. Press Building
19-21 Chenango Street

Willis Sharpe Kilmer made his fortune selling one of America's most successful patent medicines of the 19th century - his uncle's Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root. The herbal compound was advertised as a medical wonder for the digestive system and its curious name made reference to the common name for the scourge of malaria at the time. It is an approved medicine of the FDA and is still available today.

Another of Kilmer's products is still available today - the *Binghamton Press*. He started the newspaper in 1904 and constructed this exuberant Beaux Arts tower to house his new enterprise. Architects T. I. Lacy and Sons lathered the facade in ornamental detail and filled the interior with elaborate plaster artwork and marble floors. Willis Sharpe Kilmer insisted his new building look up to no other Binghamton neighbor and the Laceys stretched the Press Building to 168 feet; it would remain the city's tallest structure until 1972, long after the paper had been acquired by the Gannett Company.

When he wasn't tending to his business empire Kilmer was immersed in thoroughbred horse racing, maintaining three racing stables and breeding two Kentucky Derby winners. Kilmer's private yacht *Remlik* was purchased by the United States Navy during World War I and converted into the *USS Remlik*, the name being Kilmer spelled backwards.

21. Strand Theatre
27 Chenango Street

The Strand Theatre opened on March 8, 1920 as a vaudeville stage and made the mandatory transfer to movie house. The architect was Leon H. Lempert, Jr. and the interior design was attributed to Gustav Brandt of Chicago. The Strand

tumbled downhill until its last days as an adult theater. The facade has been severely compromised but the upper floor still displays its decorative white glazed terra-cotta tiles.

22. Stone Opera House
31-33 Chenango Street

Charles M. Stone had long agitated for the building of a first-class entertainment venue in Binghamton when he finally gave up the call for backers and ponied up the \$135,000 for his Columbia Theatre himself. The three-story opera house was constructed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style with trademarks of Henry Hobson Richardson's detailing including rough-hewn and carved red sandstone, a powerful entrance arch and groupings of truncated window pillars. The theater was soon known as the Stone Opera House and the 1,500-seat venue was hailed as the finest stage between New York City and Buffalo. Most of the biggest stars of the day appeared at the Stone. Theodore Roosevelt addressed a packed house here during the presidential campaign of 1900 in support of the re-election of William McKinley. In April 13 Binghamton theater goers enjoyed a production of *Paid in Full* with a 19-year old Emanuel Goldberg in the role of Sato - it was the first professional gig for Edward G. Robinson. The arc of the Stone Opera House's history told a familiar 20th century tale - time as a vaudeville theater, conversion to a movie house, eventual closure in the 1970s. Unlike its fellow downtown movie palaces in other cities, however, the restoration wand has never touched the Stone Opera House and it has sat vacant for the better part of 40 years.

23. Greyhound Bus Terminal
81 Chenango Street

The original Art Moderne bus stop dates to 1938, becoming enough of a landmark that when plans for a new \$11 million transit terminal came along it was decided to build around the stylish old station. Rod Serling set an episode of the *Twilight Zone*, "Mirror Image," in the Binghamton bus station.

TURN RIGHT ON LEWIS STREET.

24. Lackawanna Station
45 Lewis Street

Binghamton was one of the most enthusiastic proponents of the urban renewal movement that swept America in the 1960s and 1970s. In some years buildings were razed at a rate of one every four days. Somehow the Lackawanna Railroad Station, despite an end of passenger service, dodged the wrecking ball, even though demolition was scheduled. The freight station across the tracks was not so lucky. Samuel Huckel, an architect who remodeled Grand Central Station in New York City, gave Binghamton its Romanesque-flavored depot, dominated by a square brick tower. Although the city spared the old passenger station it did nothing to save it either. Finally in the 1980s it was redeveloped privately.

FOLLOW LEWIS STREET AS IT
BENDS TO THE RIGHT AND
CONTINUES TO HENRY STREET.

25. NYSEG Stadium
211 Henry Street at Fayette Street

The Eastern League formed in 1923 with founding franchises in Binghamton, Elmira, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Williamsport and York. Of those six, only Binghamton is still a league member, although it endured a quarter-century absence before the New York Mets placed their AA minor league team here in 1992. To greet the Mets this 6,012-seat concrete stadium was constructed at a cost of \$4.6 million.

CROSS HENRY STREET AS IT
BECOMES FAYETTE STREET AND
WALK ONE BLOCK TO COURT
STREET. TURN RIGHT.

26. Sherman Phelps Mansion
191 Court Street

Sherman Phelps was at work by the age of 14, manufacturing glass with his two older brothers. When the enterprise failed in the Panic of 1837 Phelps took to the road as a peddler, doing well enough that he was able to transfer his efforts to the Delaware and Lackawanna Western Railroad

and prospering in northeast Pennsylvania. He arrived in Binghamton in 1854 as the president of the Susquehanna Bank, always to be called Phelps Bank. From this base Phelps became entwined in nearly every aspect of Binghamton life: he founded the Binghamton Gas Light Company, he was in on the incorporation of the Binghamton Water Works and he funded most of the city's emerging businesses. When he ran for mayor in 1872 he was unanimously elected by both parties, running without opposition.

Sherman Phelps was less fortunate in his personal life; he buried two young wives before 1864. This mansion was constructed in 1870 by his friend, Isaac Perry, who created a lavish French Second Empire residence ensconced with a wonderful iron fence. Fanciful ironwork also highlighted the exuberant mansard roof. Phelps bought up seven city lots for his new home and poured about \$100,000 into the project.

The mansion was purchased in 1905 by the Monday Afternoon Club, a women's civic organization. The club constructed a large ballroom on the back of the mansion in 1905 and continues to hold its weekly meetings there to this day. In 1986 ownership of the mansion was transferred to The Phelps Mansion Foundation which now operates tours to the public.

27. Centenary (Landmark) Church 126 Court Street

The Binghamton Methodists consolidated the Henry and Court street churches in 1865. With a congregation 399 strong they commenced construction of this brick Gothic Revival church in 1866 and two years and \$65,000 later the first services were held here. The building has hosted the Landmark Church since 1998.

28. Security Mutual Life Insurance Company 100 Court Street at Exchange Street

Charles M. Turner founded the Security Mutual Life Association in November of 1886 and two small offices opened in downtown Binghamton on January 3, 1887. That first day the company's first policy was sold - a term life product with a \$1,000 death benefit. Two years later it became the first company in America to offer disability benefits. With the coming of a new century Se-

curity Mutual was ready for its own building and Truman I. Lacey designed a new 10-story office skyscraper using the convention of the day to make the building resemble a classical tripartite column with a defined base (the ground floors), a shaft (the mostly unadorned middle floors) and a crown (the elaborate top floors and cornice). Working in the Beaux Arts style, Lacey gave the building that opened in 1904 a flurry of unique details inside and out. The main entranceway was designed after the stone bridge depicted in the Company's emblem. Inside is a sumptuous two-story lobby with twin Carrera marble staircases and arched mural galleries under a domed ceiling. Above the entrance is a carved marble hunting dog whose origins have been lost to history - perhaps the president's dog or perhaps a symbol of fidelity.

TURN LEFT ON EXCHANGE STREET.

29. Carnegie Library 78 Exchange Street

Andrew Carnegie used his steel money to build over 2,500 libraries around the world; Binghamton got a \$75,000 chunk of the kitty in 1902 to construct this yellow brick Neoclassical building trimmed with limestone and sporting a pedimented, two-story Ionic front portico. S.O. and H.A. Lacey drew up the designs with Isaac G. Perry, on one of his final projects, serving as the consulting architect. In addition to lending books the library also served as a meeting hall, museum and art gallery. In 1985, Broome County took over operation of the Library from the City of Binghamton and stayed until 2000 when a new 72,000 square-foot library structure replaced the Carnegie Library building.

WALK ACROSS THE STREET BACK INTO COURTHOUSE SQUARE AND THE START OF THE TOUR.

Look Up,

Buffalo



A Walking Tour of Buffalo...

Governor De Witt Clinton traveled through the wilderness of western New York in 1822 to chair a meeting that promised long-range ramifications. The digging of “Clinton’s Ditch,” the Erie Canal, had begun five years earlier and would soon reach its western conclusion. But where? There were two contenders. One was Black Rock, on the Niagara River, and the other was a small village two miles further south that had only been incorporated in 1816. It was originally called New Amsterdam but the residents preferred to call it Buffalo after the small creek that poured into Lake Erie. Black Rock had the better harbor but the Buffalo Harbor Company was working hard to overcome that by borrowing \$12,000 and constructing a new breakwater. At the meeting Judge Samuel Wilkinson successfully advanced the case for Buffalo and the little village was awarded the coveted prize. Buffalo became a great city and Black Rock disappeared.

As the continent’s major hub of east-west trade, Buffalo grew rapidly. Manufacturing followed commerce and by 1850 the city was speckled with iron works, foundries and plants churning out mirrors, picture frames, porcelain bathtubs, millstones, soap and candles. At that time, the coming of the railroads threatened to siphon business away from the Erie Canal but city leaders need not have worried. The city soon was being served by eleven main railroad lines as Buffalo grew into the second largest railroad center in America.

By 1900, Buffalo claimed more millionaires per capita than any other city in America. Only 96 years after the first streets were laid out in the village, more than 350,000 people called Buffalo home. Those streets were created in a spoke-like radial plan by Joseph Ellicott, the surveyor for the Holland Land Company who mimicked those of Washington D.C., which his brother Major Andrew Ellicott had helped draw up several years before. Frederick Law Olmsted, America’s greatest landscape architect, called Buffalo “the best planned city as to its streets, public places, and grounds in the United States, if not the world.”

Our walking tour to explore those streets will begin at the hub of those spokes but there is nothing there today that Frederick Law Olmsted would recognize...

1. McKinley Monument Niagara Square

World's Fairs began in England in the 1750s and reached their peak in popularity between the 1870s and World War II when a fair appeared virtually every year, often to present new technological wonders to the public. In 1901 Buffalo staged the Pan-American Exposition that etched its place in history on September 6 when anarchist Leon Czolgosz approached and fatally shot President William McKinley at the Temple of Music, a day after he had given an address at the exposition.

When the fair ended the buildings were demolished and all vestiges of the fair, located in and around today's Delaware Park, were erased, save for the New York State pavilion that today houses the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society. The State of New York commissioned this monument in McKinley's memory in 1907. The 96-foot marble obelisk was designed by architects Carrère and Hastings, who had led the design of the Exposition. The monument is ringed by Italian marble animals created by sculptor A. Philmister Proctor- recumbent lions symbolizing strength and turtles that represent eternal life. Each lion weighs 15 tons.

FROM THE CENTER OF THE
SQUARE WALK TO THE WEST SIDE
IN FRONT OF CITY HALL TO BE-
GIN YOUR JOURNEY CLOCKWISE
AROUND NIAGARA SQUARE.

2. City Hall 65 Niagara Square

The cornerstone for one of America's most massive and costliest municipal buildings was laid on May 14, 1930. It was completed, almost seven million dollars later, in time to commemorate the city's Centennial on July 1, 1932. Architect John J. Wade provided the plans for the 28-story Art Deco masterwork that stood as Buffalo's tallest building for almost four decades. Wade infused every corner of the City Hall colossus with a reminder of Buffalo from the central sandstone entrance frieze with pioneers and Iroquois Indian motifs to historic murals to statues of iconic fig-

ures. The brightly colored tiles at the top of the tower suggest a flame-like crown that represents the energetic sun burst in the flag of the City. The building was designed with large vents on the exterior to catch winds off Lake Erie to cool the interior without electricity.

3. Federal Courthouse Niagara Square at Delaware Avenue, Mohawk Street, South Elmwood Avenue

In the 19th century Niagara Square, first conceived in 1804 by Joseph Ellicott, was the first great social center of the city, circled with the finest mansions in Buffalo. One belonged to the 13th President of the United States, Millard Fillmore. One by one the great residential palaces were sacrificed for new civic buildings. The last survivor was an Italian villa built by Philo Balcom, the "Brick King," in 1865. It was finally demolished in 2007 for this federal courthouse, designed in glass by the New York firm of Kohn Pederson Fox, whose large-scale projects have been constructed in 35 countries.

4. Statler Towers 107 Delaware Avenue on Niagara Square

Ellsworth Milton Statler was born in Gettysburg only months after Union forces repelled Robert E. Lee's invading Confederate army in 1863. He began a career in the hotel business with a vision to provide luxury accommodations of the first order. He built his first permanent Statler Hotel in 1907, in Buffalo, as the first major hotel to have a private bath or shower and running water in every room. In 1923 it became the Hotel Buffalo when he constructed these towers - then the tallest building in New York outside of New York City. The Hotel Statler offered 1,100 guest rooms, more than all other Buffalo hotels combined. By the time of his death in 1928 Statler had a prestigious chain of major city hotels across the Northeast and Midwest. In 1954 when Conrad Hilton bought the Hotels Statler Company for \$111 million it was the largest real estate transaction in history. In 1983 this venerable hotel tower was converted to office use.

5. Buffalo City Court
50 Delaware Avenue on Niagara Square

The concrete City Court was built in the Brutalist style in 1974. It was designed without windows to eliminate any distractions from the goings-on in the courtrooms and judges' chambers.

LEAVE NIAGARA SQUARE ON COURT STREET ACROSS FROM CITY HALL.

6. United States Courthouse
68 Court Street on Niagara Square

This unusual five-sided sandstone building occupies an entire island block off the eastern side of Niagara Square. Planned as a twelve-story federal building, the lack of Depression-era funds limited the size to seven stories. Its unusual shape and stripped-down classicism with low-relief carved ornaments render the courthouse a unique example of 1930s Art Moderne architecture.

TURN RIGHT ON FRANKLIN STREET.

7. Tigor Title Building
northwest corner of Eagle Street and Franklin Street

This is the oldest building still standing in downtown Buffalo, constructed in 1833 by the First Unitarian Congregational Society which worshipped here until 1880. Abraham Lincoln, in February 1861, attended church services here and sat in the pew of his host, Millard Fillmore. After the church departed the building picked up a third floor and was lengthened along Eagle Street. By 1886, the building was used by companies that researched property titles.

8. Old County Hall
92 Franklin Street

This land, known as Franklin Square, was set aside as the village of Buffalo's first burial ground. In 1871 with the burgeoning city in need of a more commodious government headquarters it was decided to build here, with all interments

having been removed two decades earlier to Forest Lawn Cemetery. Rochester architect Andrew Jackson Warner was retained to design the new civic center and court house complex. He delivered a monumental Romanesque structure that served that purpose until 1932. Granite for the 80-foot high walls was quarried on Clark Island, Maine and considered the finest building stone available; it was shipped by rail to Buffalo. Gazing to every corner of the city from atop the 209-foot tower are four 16-ton female statues sculpted by Giovanni F. Sala, allegorical figures of Justice, Mechanical Arts, Agriculture and Commerce.

9. St. Joseph's Cathedral
50 Franklin Street

When the first bishop of Buffalo, John Timon, came to Western New York in 1847, Catholics worshipped in small congregations scattered across the city and outlying towns. To raise money for his new Parish Timon traveled in Europe and Mexico; he would eventually spend \$150,000 over 11 years to construct St. Joseph's. The architect was the Catholic Church's go-to designer, Irish-born Patrick Keeley. Keeley had hundreds of churches on his resume, including every Catholic cathedral in New England. His work here strongly resembles the Victorian Gothic features of the cathedral in Freiburg, Germany. The stained glass windows in St. Joseph's were donated by King Ludwig I of Bavaria and had won top prize in the Munich Exposition of 1850. Another prize-winner on display inside is a 3,627-pipe Hook & Hastings organ that scored top honors at the 1876 Centennial in Philadelphia before being purchased by the Cathedral for \$10,000. A recent refurbishment cost \$1 million.

TURN LEFT ON SWAN STREET.

10. Dun Building
110 Pearl Street at Swan Street

Buffalo's first school was built on this site but never saw its sixth birthday as it was burned by the British in 1813. This 10-story building, one of the city's most ornamental, was constructed in 1895 as Buffalo's first "skyscraper." It was built for Robert Graham Dun who was a pioneer in credit rating reports. He joined the Mercantile Agency

in New York City at the age of 24 in 1850 and within a decade owned the company and was establishing branches around the country. The Buffalo branch, helmed by John H. Smith, was established in 1866. Edward B. Green and William Sydney Wicks, the dominant local architectural firm of the age - some 200 of their buildings still exist around Buffalo - used golden Roman brick to create a Renaissance Revival style with arches and a richly carved frieze banding the third floor. Above each entrance is a round window sporting egg-and-dart molding. The building saw hard times in the 1970s and managed to dodge the wrecking ball but over the years it has lost its original elaborate cornice.

TURN LEFT ON PEARL STREET.

11. Guaranty (Prudential) Building 28 Church Street at Pearl

The landmark Guaranty Building was one of the first steel-framed buildings in the world, designed by Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler. Sullivan's revolutionary design for the building was based on his belief that "form follows function." He and Adler divided the building into four zones. The basement was the mechanical and utility area. Since this level was below ground, it did not show on the face of the building. The next zone was the ground-floor zone which was the public areas for street-facing shops, public entrances and lobbies. The third zone was the office floors with identical office cells clustered around the central elevator shafts. The final zone was the terminating zone, consisting of elevator equipment, utilities and a few offices.

The 13-story office building was clad in rich reddish brown terra cotta blocks in contrast to the gleaming white Renaissance structures that were filling American downtowns at the time. When completed in 1896, it was the tallest building in Buffalo. Two years later in a naming rights deal it became the Prudential Building. By any name the ground-breaking structure is today a National Historic Landmark.

TURN RIGHT ON CHURCH STREET.

12. St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral 128 Pearl Street at Church Street

Richard Upjohn was America's leading proponent of the English Gothic style of ecclesiastical architecture in the mid-1800s. His most famous work was Trinity Church in lower Manhattan but he always considered St. Paul's his master work. The congregation erected the first permanent church in Buffalo in 1821, a modest wooden structure. In 1850 it was uprooted and moved and sandstone from Medina, Ohio imported to build the current sanctuary. The first services took place in 1851 but the two spires were not completed until 1870. In 1886, two years before a gas explosion destroyed most of the interior, St. Paul's was tabbed as the Episcopal Cathedral for the Diocese of Western New York.

TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.

13. Ellicott Square Building 295 Main Street

When Joseph Ellicott was busying himself laying out the village of New Amsterdam that would become Buffalo he did not neglect to set aside the choicest real estate for himself. That was a stretch of land along the east side of Main Street. For a century this chunk of Buffalo was known as Ellicott Square and stayed in the Ellicott family. In 1895 it was decided to cover the block with the world's largest office and retail space. Within a year, the deed was done, chewing up \$3.5 million.

The famed Daniel H. Burnham of Chicago designed the 10-story Italian Renaissance building around a central courtyard. The exterior was clad in granite and terra-cotta and pearl gray brick. The fabulous interior space featured a marble mosaic floor pieced together with 23 million marble pieces imported from Italy. The mosaic depicts sun symbols from cultures across the world.

14. Glenny (Stanton) Building 249-253 Main Street

In the 1860s and 1870s a new construction technique swept America's big cities - the cast iron facade. All the decorative elements such as columns and window hoods and cornices were

pre-cast and assembled on site. The process was cheap and quick. Often the facades were painted to resemble stone or wood. At five stories this was the tallest cast-iron facade building in the state outside of New York City and today it is the only surviving cast-iron facade building in Buffalo. This was the Glenny Building when it was constructed in 1873. Irish-born William H. Glenny arrived in Buffalo in 1836 and found work in a bookstore. He would go on to open his own crockery store which expanded out to the Western states and Territories.

15. Marine Trust Building
237 Main Street at Seneca Street

Marine Bank took its first deposits on August 27, 1850 in a storefront at 79 Main Street, with plans to exploit the thriving waterfront trade along Lake Erie, hence the name. But the eight founders who assembled from around the state had bigger plans that involved a statewide financial institution. Their vision would come to pass and Marine Midland would eventually become one of America's largest commercial banks with 300 branches across New York and offices in over two dozen countries. This Neo-Colonial building assumed the mantle of Buffalo's "tallest building" when it was completed in 1915. It features a parade of arches and above the central arch you can look up and see a carved ship in the keystone that served as Marine Midland Bank's symbol before its assets were acquired by Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp.

16. HSBC Center
1 HSBC Center at Main Street

At 529 feet, this is the tallest building in Buffalo. It was constructed at the cost of \$50 million between 1969 and 1972 for the Marine Midland Bank that traces its beginnings back to 1850. In 1998 the venerable bank's assets were acquired by Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC). So widespread was Marine Midland that HSBC expected to spend \$50 million to change the name around the globe - the same amount the sprawling complex cost 30 years earlier. The Buffalo Metro Rail rolls along Main Street through the 40-story building.

TURN LEFT ON SENECA STREET.
TURN LEFT ON WASHINGTON STREET.

17. Coca Cola Park
275 Washington Street

Coca-Cola Field opened as Pilot Field in 1988, helping to pioneer the era of downtown, baseball-only stadiums that would come to permeate the sports landscape in America. Seating capacity is 21,500 but its design by architects Ben Barnert and Joe Spear makes possible the addition of another deck of seats.

TURN RIGHT ON SWAN STREET.
TURN LEFT ON ELLICOTT STREET.

18. Old Post Office / Erie Community College
121 Ellicott Street at South Division

The first mail was delivered in Buffalo in 1804. In the early days of the federal postal system it was common for the postmaster to operate out of his home. Buffalo's first postmaster, Erastus Granger, set up his operation in Crow's Tavern on Exchange Street. Buffalo would not get a dedicated post office building until an old Baptist church was converted in 1837.

This monumental post office, that also hosted many other functions of the federal government, came along in the 1890s. Architect Jeremiad O'Rourke threw elements of the Romanesque Revival, Flemish Gothic and Chateausque architectural styles into the 4 1/2-story building, executed in top-of-the-line pink granite. The Old Post Office is dominated by a 244-foot tower and is festooned with hand-carved gargoyles, pinnacles and eagles. The facility opened officially in March 1901 with a letter sent to President William McKinley, who would be assassinated in Buffalo six months later.

One by one various government agencies abandoned the Old Post Office until only the U.S. Postal Service remained. They left in 1963. The building spent almost two decades under a threat of demolition but was finally rehabilitated as the downtown campus for Erie Community College in 1981.

TURN LEFT ON SOUTH DIVISION STREET. TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.

19. M&T Bank

1 M&T Plaza on Main Street between North Division and Eagle streets

The new headquarters for M&T Bank required the demolition of the entire city block and the surrender of \$1.75 million, the biggest real estate deal Buffalo had seen up to that time. Ground was broken on June 16, 1965 on plans by Minoru Yamaski, who would gain his greatest renown for his design of the World Trade Center towers. The 315-foot tower contains more than 3,300 tons of then-revolutionary V-50 structural steel able to support the equivalent weight of twenty automobiles on each square inch. The first two stories of arches are faced in white Taconic marble from the quarries of Vermont.

**20. Liberty Building
424 Main Street**

Liberty Bank began in 1882 as the savings institution for Buffalo's German community as the German-American Bank. Following World War I it was decided that having "American" in its name was not patriotic enough so from that time the bank carried the moniker "Liberty." And when \$4.5 million was sunk into erecting this 23-story Neoclassical skyscraper in 1925 it was favored with three exact replicas of the Statue of Liberty to drive home the point. The pair on the roof, one facing east and one gazing towards the Great Lakes in the west, still remain but the one over the Main Street entrance no longer survives. The architect was an Englishman, Alfred Bossom, who was a great champion of large sky-tickling buildings in the first decades of the 20th century. This was one of his final projects before he returned to England and embarked on a long career as a member of Parliament in the House of Commons.

WALK INTO LAFAYETTE SQUARE.

**21. *Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument*
Lafayette Square**

The City built this memorial in gratitude to the soldiers and sailors who saved the Union. It is a cylindrical granite shaft surmounted by a female figure representing Buffalo. Scenes at the base include Abraham Lincoln announcing the Emancipation Proclamation and civilians answering the call to arms. Hartford, Connecticut's leading architect, George Keller, designed the monument in a Victorian Gothic style and sculptures came from the studios of Caspar Buberl. New York Governor Grover Cleveland dedicated the memorial on July 4, 1884.

FACING THE MONUMENT TURN TO THE RIGHT AND BEGIN WALKING COUNTERCLOCKWISE AROUND LAFAYETTE SQUARE.

**22. Brisbane Building
403 Main Street at Lafayette Square**

James Mooney and James Brisbane funded the construction of this mixed-use building covering a half-block in the 1890s. An early representative of the Beaux Arts classical style it is a crowning achievement of busy Buffalo architects Milton E. Beebe and Son. Beebe, whose grandfather was one of Buffalo's original settlers, began as a carpenter before putting out his shingle as an architect in the 1860s. The seven-story building, the largest retail/office building in the city at the time, required some three million bricks in its construction. The most famous tenant was the Kleinhans Company men's clothing store, started by brothers Edward Horace Kleinhans in 1893. When they moved into the Brisbane Building the purveyor of fine menswear took over the basement, half of the first floor and the entire second floor. Kleinhans closed on December 30, 1992, only weeks from reaching 100 years in business. The building survives, albeit with a modernized entrance facade.

23. Hotel Lafayette
391 Washington Street at
Lafayette Square

Louise Blanchard Bethune, the first registered professional woman architect in the United States, designed this grand turn-of-the 20th century hotel. The Lafayette was planned like many others to open before 1901 to host the crowds arriving for the Pan-American Exposition but funding snafus dashed those plans. When the Lafayette did arrive three years later, however, it soon won acclaim as one of America's finest hotels. Bethune's French Renaissance design incorporated semi-glazed terra cotta trim around red bricks. Window balconies and doors were decorated with wrought iron. By 1912 the Lafayette was nearly doubled in size to 370 guest rooms - each with hot and cold running water, a telephone and a central vacuuming system. No other hotel in America could boast such amenities. Presidents Taft, Wilson, Hoover, and Roosevelt all signed the guest book. The Lafayette lasted over fifty years before being converted to long-term housing.

24. Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
1 Lafayette Square

This is a hallowed slice of Buffalo ground: the first Erie County courthouse stood here from 1816 until 1876. Cyrus Lazelle Warner Eidlitz, the architect who created Times Square in New York City, designed the first Buffalo Public Library here in 1887. It was a dominating Romanesque Revival presence on the square until it was torn down and replaced with the current facility in 1963. The library lent its first books in 1835 to subscribers. One who ponied up the membership fee was Mark Twain who was the editor of the *Buffalo Express* from 1869-1871. In 1885 Twain donated the original, hand-written manuscript of the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to the library.

CONTINUE WALKING AROUND
THE SQUARE BACK TO MAIN
STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

25. L.L. Berger Building
514 Main Street

When Louis Berger got into the retailing game in 1905 he was told that a double initial sounded more sophisticated so he tacked on the name of the street he had lived on in Detroit and became Louis Larned Berger. His store would grow in sophistication as well and when L.L. Berger died in 1967 his fashion retailing empire was mentioned in the same breath as Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City and Neiman Marcus in Dallas. His flagship store here had grown also, expanding to almost 100,000 square feet of retail space when adjoining buildings were fused. Berger's went bankrupt in 1991 and the landmark store has since been converted to upscale apartments and commercial space although the ground floor looks much as it did a century ago.

26. Buffalo Savings Bank
545 Main Street

Buffalo Savings Bank took in six deposits on its first day in 1846, the city's first savings bank. It had one employee. The bank was destined to become one of America's largest savings institutions before it became insolvent in 1991. Green & Wicks, Buffalo's greatest architectural firm of its gilded age at the turn of the 20th century, won the design competition for this headquarters that opened in 1901. The granite Neoclassical, Beaux-Arts cost \$300,000 and would not be fully finished until 1925. Imbued with a rich interior of paintings and murals, the triumph of the imperial vault is its gold-leafed dome. The tiles on the dome were originally covered with copper, which took on a greenish hue. The dome has been gilded three times — in 1954, 1979, and 1998. The last restoration required 140,000 paper-thin sheets of 23.75-carat gold leaf with a final price tag of \$500,000.

TURN RIGHT ON HURON STREET
AND WALK A FEW STEPS UP TO
THE CORNER OF WASHINGTON
AND GENESEE STREETS.

27. Electric Tower
535 Washington Street

The Buffalo General Electric Company organized in 1882 with its sights on harnessing the power of Niagara Falls. The hydroelectric power was one of the stars of the Pan-American Exposition where the Tower of Light wowed visitors. Nationally acclaimed Buffalo architects August Esenwein and James A. Johnson designed a Beaux Arts tower for the company's headquarters in 1912 with a central tower modeled on the Pharos Lighthouse of Alexandria, Egypt, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. In the 1930s Art Deco elements such as black ornamental glass and stainless steel fixtures were blended into the tower by the Niagara Hudson Corporation, successor to Buffalo General Electric. A recent refurbishment has brought new life to the glazed terra cotta tiles and plaster moldings.

28. Palace (Market) Arcade
617 Main Street

Buffalo architects Edward B. Green and William S. Wicks summoned famous markets of the past for this enclosed shopping arcade in 1892. They gave the building a classically inspired look for the collection of stores and offices with prominent plate glass windows that heralded a new age of appealing to "window shoppers." Above the strollers was placed a frosted glass skylight that fostered an atmosphere of comfort. At each end of the arcade the arched entranceways were marked by Bison heads symbolizing the City of Buffalo. The Arcade closed during the 1970s and was revived with a \$10 million facelift and re-emerged as the Market Arcade in 1995.

29. Levy, King & White Building
620 Main Street

These blocks of Main Street retain many examples of the Neoclassical architecture that dominated American downtowns in the early 1900s. This elegant three-story shop was constructed in 1919 by Thomas Dickinson whose firm was a leading jeweler in Buffalo for more than a century. The building was restored by Levy, King and White, an advertising company from the 1980s.

30. Shea's Buffalo Theatre
646 Main Street

Canadian Michael Shea operated vaudeville theaters in Toronto and Buffalo before opening his first moving picture house at 580 Main Street in the Hippodrome Theater in 1914. A decade later, after touring the country to garner ideas for a new movie palace, Shea, then in his sixties, was ready to pour nearly \$2 million into Shea's Buffalo Theatre. He hired renowned theater designers Rapp and Rapp of Chicago who delivered a facsimile of a 17th century European opera house and Louis Comfort Tiffany was retained to work on the interior. Most of the furnishings and fixtures came from Marshall Field in Chicago and included Czechoslovakian crystal chandeliers of the finest quality. There was over an acre of seating for the comfort of almost 4,000 patrons. The curtain went up on January 16, 1926 with a screening of *King of Main Street*, a bittersweet love story with Adolph Menjou in the lead as the King who tries to find happiness with a common girl. By the time of his retirement in 1930, Shea's was heralded as the finest theater between New York City and Chicago. But Shea's was also not immune to the epidemic of suburban malls and television that killed downtown theaters across the country and it closed in 1975. It took a \$30 million renovation in 1999 to breathe life back into Shea's.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO
CHIPPEWA STREET AND TURN
RIGHT. TURN LEFT ON PEARL
STREET.

**31. Young Men's Christian Association
Building**
45 West Mohawk Street at Pearl Street

The YMCA got its start in London in 1844 and the concept spread to North America with a branch opening in Montreal in 1851. America's first YMCA was established in Boston that year and the second the following year in Buffalo. Approaching its 50th anniversary the chapter staged a design competition for a new home that was won by Buffalo's pre-eminent architects, Green and Wicks. They delivered a monumental build-

ing sited for one of Buffalo's odd-shaped corners allowing to its radial-designed streets. Using an English-Flemish Renaissance-style design, the Buffalo YMCA provided extensive accommodations for lodgers and was the first to include a spa -- features that would come to be expected in a YMCA building. The building remained an active YMCA facility until 1978 and has since soldiered on as offices, retail space, and a health club.

CONTINUE ONE MORE BLOCK
AND TURN RIGHT ON COURT
STREET TO RETURN TO THE TOUR
STARTING POINT ON NIAGARA
SQUARE.

Look Up,

Corning



A Walking Tour of Corning...

Erastus Corning never had anything to do with glassmaking and probably never visited the town that bears his name. Corning began his business career in Troy, New York in 1808 at the age of 13 behind the counter of his uncle's hardware store. In his work as a hardware man Corning was a dealer in all manner of iron products, from nails and stoves to farming equipment and railroad tracks. The Corning hardware store was one of the most significant businesses in the Hudson Valley by the 1830s and morphed into the Rensselaer Iron Works, which, under Corning's guidance, installed the first Bessemer converter in the United States. Meanwhile, Corning was founding the Albany State Bank and branching into railroads which he would organize into America's largest corporation, the New York Central. Amidst these interests Corning dabbled in politics, putting in a term as mayor of Albany and doing a stint in the New York state senate.

With his few moments of spare time Corning invested in land speculation in western New York. One place that caught his interest was timberlands along the Chemung River. With the opening of the Chemung Canal in 1833 large mills were sprouting to float logs and finished lumber out of little villages in the region. Corning was at the head of one investor group that gobbled up a village along the canal so the town was named for him. The plan was to build a railroad from the new anthracite coal lands of northeast Pennsylvania and ship it out via the canal.

With the canal and the railroads the village of Corning blossomed as a transportation center. One of the manufacturers who was attracted by the area's cheap coal and transportation was Amory Houghton who was running the Brooklyn Flint Glass Works in, of course, Brooklyn, New York. When the people of Corning offered to put up \$50,000 to his \$75,000 Houghton began work on a new glass plant on June 1868 and was producing cut glass by October 22, 1868. The business was now the Corning Glass Works and the community was on its way to being "Crystal City." Houghton left the business and the company's new name and retired to his farm in Westchester County in 1870.

There were other industries in the hustling little town - there were firms making iron and bricks and drills and stoves but they would all pale behind the global corporation that became one with the name of the town. The face of that town would change forever in the summer of 1972 when flood waters from Hurricane Agnes wiped away businesses and factories. In the aftermath Corning has reinvented itself as an art town and tourist destination with the Corning Museum of Glass at its heart. Our walking tour will stop in on Corning and the Gaffer District but first we'll start in a park named for a city engineer a century ago...

**1. Steuben County Courthouse
Canfield Park at southwest corner of
Pine Street and 1st Street**

Steuben County was created in 1796 out of Ontario County and named for Friedrich von Steuben, the general in the American Revolutionary War who famously brought discipline to the ragtag Colonial Army at Valley Forge. In 1853 the County was divided in two jury districts, with Corning and Bath as half shire towns. A courthouse was constructed here on a hill above the Erie Railroad at the cost of \$14,000. In 1905 another division was made when Hornellsville was made the third of the shire towns.

In 1902 this land, known as the Public Square, was gifted to the county and J. Foster Warner of Rochester won a design competition for a new courthouse. The resulting Neoclassical building features a full entablature supported by a pair of stout Ionic columns. The primary design consideration, however, seemed to be to do away with the “very objectionable ascent necessary to reach the present Court House.” So the moderate flight of stone steps seen today may have been what caught the building committee’s eye during the competition.

FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE
COURTROOM STEPS, WITH YOUR
BACK TO THE COURTHOUSE,
TURN RIGHT AND WALK OVER TO
THE CORNER OF PINE STREET AND
1ST STREET.

**2. World War Memorial Library
Pine Street at First Avenue**

The Corning City Club ponied up \$5,000 to purchase this lot, the old Rogers property, in 1894. By 1897 they had constructed a new clubhouse with a blend of classical and colonial elements so that the club could move from its restrictive quarters in the town opera house. In 1930, when there still was only one World War, the building was outfitted as both a library and living tribute to the soldiers of the Great War from 1914 to 1918. It served as the county library until 1975 when the collection moved over to

Nasser Civic Center Plaza. After standing vacant for many years the building has been rehabilitated as public housing.

**3. First Presbyterian Church
1 East 1st Street**

The first Presbyterian services were held around town in 1812 although a small wooden church would not be erected until 1832, when the congregation had reached about 100. The present stone church is the third meetinghouse to serve the Presbyterians; it was constructed in 1867 at the cost of \$36,000.

CONTINUE WALKING EAST
ON 1ST STREET.

**4. Christ Episcopal Church
39 East 1st Street at Cedar Street**

The incorporation of Christ Church predates the incorporation of the City of Corning by seven years, 1841 to 1848. However, the congregation led a vagabond existence until 1853, meeting in other churches, a school or members’ homes. A Gothic-styled meeting house was then constructed on Walnut Street and was home until the flame-licked building was abandoned after a fire in 1889. The parish relocated into this gray stone English Gothic church in 1895. The tower bell, cast in 1871 in Troy, New York, was salvaged from the fire the original church.

Some 85 stained glass windows adorn the sanctuary. Louis Comfort Tiffany came to Corning personally at the laying of the cornerstone of the church and consulted with Mrs. Amory Houghton, Jr. who donated \$5,000 for Tiffany’s windows depicting the ascension of Christ.

**5. Corning First United Methodist Church
144 Cedar Street at First Street**

In 1832 Painted Post was set off as a separate circuit containing (as of 1837) Little Flatts, Painted Post, “Addison Village”, West Addison, Erwin Centre, Campbell and Tioga. In 1833 a class formed at Caton, which was set off with Corning in November 1839. Another division occurred in 1843 when Erwin, Painted Post and

Campbell formed a circuit named after the latter two towns. In 1861-62, the Methodist Episcopal Church of Corning built a church which seated 700. On June 26, 1893 H. O. Dorman & Co., began tearing down the First Methodist Church, at Cedar and First streets, preparatory to erecting on the site a larger house of worship, the cornerstone of which was laid Monday, October 2, 1893. The fine Romanesque brick and terra-cotta church was built on plans by Henry Tuthill and dedicated on June 10, 1894. It cost \$40,000, including the pipe organ.

TURN LEFT ON CEDAR STREET.

6. Rockwell Museum of Western Art
111 Cedar Street

From his office in Rochester Andrew Jackson Warner contributed many splendid buildings to the central New York landscape in the latter half of the 1800s. Here he drew up plans for a Romanesque vision in orange brick trimmed out in terra-cotta and locally quarried limestone for Corning's City Hall in 1893. The total price tag was less than \$29,000.

Bob Rockwell grew up on a cattle ranch in Colorado and attended Stanford University in California but landed in Corning at the age of 22 in 1933 helping run the family department store. He would remain until his death in 2009, sating his love of the West by amassing the greatest collection of western art east of the Mississippi River. After the old city hall was spared demolition in the 1980s the vast Rockwell collection moved here.

TURN RIGHT ON
EAST MARKET STREET.

7. The Henkel Block
72 East Market Street

When this brick building with prominent arched Romanesque windows was constructed in 1893 it was the only five-story "skyscraper" in Corning. A water-powered elevator transported folks between floors. For many years a Food Mart operated here; today the floors above the ground story have been converted into luxury apartments.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS
ON MARKET STREET, WALKING
WEST.

8. Tuthill Offices
45 East Market Street at Cedar Street

Henry Guernsey Tuthill was born in East Otto, New York and moved to Corning in the 1850s where his family were cabinet and furniture makers. When the Civil War erupted Tuthill organized about 60 men into Company A of the 104th New York Volunteer Infantry. He mustered into the Union Army as Captain on March 8, 1862. Tuthill saw action in seven battles and was wounded in four, including losing the tips of two fingers while leading his company at Antietam. At Gettysburg Captain Tuthill was shot through the groin while defending Seminary Ridge and carried the ball in his body the rest of his life, for which he received a \$30 per month pension.

After the war Tuthill again worked in the woodmaking business before turning to architecture in the 1880s. He quickly became a busy architect around Corning but he used this one, erected in 1885, as his offices. He was joined in his practice in 1890 by his son Samuel Eugene. H.G. Tuthill and son, Practical and Superintending Architects soon were regarded as the best architect/builders in the Southern Tier, especially esteemed for their churches in New York and Pennsylvania.

9. H.G. Williams Block
21-25 East Market Street

This is another festive Victorian brick building designed by Henry Tuthill, constructed in 1887. Tuthill decorated the brick facade in terra-cotta, including a pair of small lions' heads and an observant owl perched on the roof.

10. Concert Hall Block
2-6 East Market Street at Pine Street

Most of Market Street went up in flames in the summer of 1856 and this is one of the few buildings to survive the conflagration, although no one alive then would recognize it today. When it was built in 1851 the three-story building was

outfitted in the Greek Revival style. The third floor was set aside as a hall for concerts, lectures and public meetings.

In 1918 the Wellington Bank moved in from across the street and applied a Neoclassical appearance to the facade. In 1951 the entire third floor was sliced off and the old brick sheathed in Kentucky limestone.

11. First National Bank Building
5-9 East Market Street at Pine Street

Franklin N. Drake began his career as a clerk in a drug store and eventually purchased timber and coal lands that blossomed into the Bloss Coal Mining and Railroad Company. He moved to Corning in 1867 and established the First National Bank of Corning in 1882. In 1910 the bank purchased this property that had been the Drake Block and home of the J.M. Greig department store. The block was given a rich Beaux Arts makeover in brick and stone and named the First National Bank Building. Be certain to walk around the back on Centerway Square and see the decorative treatment given the drive-thru windows.

**TURN RIGHT AND WALK INTO
CENTERWAY SQUARE.**

12. Centerway Square
Market Street at Pine Street

When Pine Street was closed to vehicular traffic in 1988 this plaza was outfitted with brick pavers, wrought iron fixtures and period lighting. The restored stone clock tower was erected in 1883 as a memorial to Erastus Corning. Housing a bell that weighs 1,400 pounds, the 50-foot high tower sports a water spout at the base, a souvenir of its days as a watering hole for town horses.

**RETURN TO MARKET STREET AND
TURN RIGHT, CONTINUING TO
TRAVEL WEST.**

13. Centerway Block
2 West Market Street

This wonderfully decorated Victorian Gothic brick building dates to the 1880s. It boasts a cast iron facade for the storefronts along the ground floor.

14. Palace Theatre
17 West Market Street

It is believed that the Little Princess Theatre operated here in the 1800s but for most of its life this Neo-Colonial two-story building has done retail duty. On July 31st, 2009 the refurbished Palace opened as an intimate first-run movie house.

15. Rockwell Center
23 West Market Street

Now a training center, this was the location of Rockwell's, the town's major department store until 1991. In addition to the merchandise customers recall the displays of Bob Rockwell's western art and antique toys and a pneumatic tube system that would whisk a cylinder containing the purchase slip to the business office for recording and return with a sales receipt enclosed.

16. May-Callahan Block
34-36 West Market Street

When this three-story commercial block opened in 1895 it housed a maker of sweets, a purveyor of cigars, a bootmaker and a dance hall upstairs. Lloyd Sprague hung out his insurance shingle in 1921 and remained active in the business until his death in 1992 at the age of 98. His son Ted and Ted's wife Mary Ann were in the forefront of historic preservation along Market Street and this Romanesque brick building, trimmed in sandstone and terra cotta, was one of the first properties to be restored.

17. The Club House
51-59 West Market Street at
Walnut Street

This simple three-story brick building was constructed by Stephen Thurston Hayt in 1879 for his Southern Tier Roller Mill. Hayt, from Ithaca, had worked in New York politics as a member of the state senate and as Canal Commissioner before coming to Corning to grind flour.

Hayt would die in 1907 and in 1926 the Corning Glass Works bought the building. It was converted into a club house for recreational activities and in the 1950s used as an office building. The old mill proved its mettle in the harrowing aftermath of Hurricane Agnes when it served as the corporate headquarters for the Corning Glass Works and a radio transmitter rigged on the top floor was the sole link to the outside world.

TURN RIGHT ON WALNUT STREET INTO THE CORNING INCORPORATED COMPLEX.

18. Corning Glass Works Riverfront
Plaza Arch
1 Riverfront Plaza at Walnut Street

After Corning Glass Works changed its name to Corning Incorporated in 1989 this memorial arch was commissioned. The firm of Welliver McGuire incorporated a mosaic of iridescent gold Aurene art glass into the arch that was designed to mimic the company's former headquarters constructed in 1925. The massive panels, each 52 inches wide and 11 feet tall were created by Frederick Carder, who founded Steuben Glass in 1903 with Thomas G. Hawkes and invented the Aurene glassmaking process in 1905. Carder remained Corning's design director until he retired in 1959 at the age of 96. To bring the priceless panels to the arch the company developed moving techniques never before tried. In addition to Carder's glass the classical arch is embellished with decorative brickwork, art glass and terra cotta detailing.

TURN LEFT AND WALK ACROSS THE CORNING GROUNDS OR DOWN AURENE LANE TOWARDS THE MAIN CORNING PARKING LOT AT THE END OF CHESTNUT STREET.

19. Little Joe Tower
Corning Glass Works at Chestnut Street

This landmark tower - 196 feet high - was used by Corning glassmakers in the production of thermometer tubing. Hot glass was pulled by cable to the top, creating a continuous tube. It was then cooled and cut to length. "Little Joe" is said to have been one of the skilled technicians who spent his days perfecting the technique known as "vertical draw."

TURN LEFT ON CHESTNUT STREET AND WALK OUT TO MARKET STREET. TURN LEFT.

20. Hawkes Building
73-79 West Market Street

Irish-born Thomas Gibbons Hawkes came to New York at the age of 17 in 1863, determined to "see the world." By 1870 he was running a shop in the Corning Glass Works and married a local girl in 1876. Hawkes was determined to start his own shop and in 1882 was granted his first patent for cut glass, a pattern later called "Russian." That same year Stephen Hayt constructed another building near his flour mill and outfitted the top two floors with cutting frames for Hawkes Rich Cut Glass Company. The firm would remain here until 1916 and continue producing crystal until 1964 when it was acquired by Tiffin Art Glass Company. The building is now home to Vitrix Hot Glass Studio, although the Hawkes legacy is proudly remembered by a painted banner across the facade.

TURN LEFT ON WALNUT STREET.

**21. United States Post Office
129 Walnut Street**

James Knox Taylor was Supervising Architect of the United States Department of the Treasury from 1897 to 1912 and his office oversaw the construction of hundreds of Neoclassical buildings throughout the United States, including a number of post offices in New York State. This one was built of pressed yellow brick on top of a granite foundation in 1908-1909. The entrance pediment features elaborate terra cotta decoration. Many of the federal post offices from that era have been abandoned but the Corning facility is still handling mail 100 years later.

**22. Frank B. Hower Scottish Rite Cathedral
146 Walnut Street at 1st Street**

“Scotch Masonry” dips its roots back into the 1700s but the 33-degree system of the Order in America dates to May 31, 1801. This building, New York’s only freestanding purpose-built Scottish Rite Cathedral, was constructed in 1921, funded largely by a \$40,000 gift from Frank B. Hower, an early promoter of the automobile in America. Architect James Walker imbued the brick cathedral with moorish design elements; it served the Masons until it was sold and more than 4,000 items, including swords, masonic aprons and historic artwork put up for auction in 2005.

CONTINUE TO CANFIELD PARK
AND THE BEGINNING OF THE
TOUR.

Look Up,

Elmira



A Walking Tour of Elmira...

The land-grant program offered to veterans of the Revolutionary War spurred development of the north bank of the Chemung River in the 1780s. Most of the soldiers sold their interests to land speculators but some packed up and came to carve a homestead out of the wilderness. Captain Curtis Rumsey is given the credit as being perhaps the first, building his log cabin in the vicinity of Miller's Pond that is named for him. The hamlet was called Newtown in its formative days at the intersection of Newtown Creek and the Chemung River. The adoption of the name Elmira in 1828 is smothered in the historical muck but local tradition hands down the colorful tale that a rambunctious child's mother spent so much time calling her name that the townsfolk grew to accept their village as "Elmira."

The town was kickstarted into the national economy with the opening of the Chemung Canal in 1832 that connected the Chemung River here with the rich timberlands surrounding Seneca Lake and thus the new Erie Canal and New York City by water. In the canal building craze that was gripping New York at the time a feeder canal made connections with Corning to the west. In 1836 Chemung County was organized with Elmira the county seat. By 1849, the New York and Erie Railroad was completed to Elmira and was soon crossed by the New York Central in the town. The canvas was now complete for the emergence of Elmira as a transportation center. The New York & Erie Railroad tagged Elmira as the "Queen City of the Southern Tier."

Elmira's most significant growth began during the Civil War when it was a major troop staging area with a large prison camp. In 1864 the village was incorporated as a city and that same year the Union camp was converted into a Civil War prison. Hastily patched together, "Hellmira" became one of the most notorious prison camps of the conflict. Roughly one in four Confederates died at Elmira, either wasting away from malnutrition or perishing during a brutal winter. Woodlawn Cemetery, about two miles north of the original prison camp site was designated a National Cemetery in 1877; all traces of the camp today have vanished under a residential area. On Christmas Eve, 1866, a fire destroyed most of the buildings in the downtown area. In retrospect it served mainly to wipe the platter clean before Elmira's most prosperous period. Between 1870 and 1890 the population doubled. Its superior transportation facilities made Elmira a manufacturing center. There were metal foundries and woolen mills and lumber mills and processing plants for the surrounding dairy region. Other products that poured from Elmira factories included glass bottles, office equipment, tools and wood pipe.

It was also during this period that Elmira welcomed its most distinguished guest, Mark Twain, who married local girl Olivia Louis Langdon in 1870. The couple moved to Hartford, Connecticut but returned to the Langdon family's Quarry Farm each summer where Twain authored many of his most famous works, including *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, in a small writer's cottage set up on the property. The Samuel Clemens family would be buried in Woodlawn Cemetery and his grave is adorned by a monument 12 feet high or "mark twain," the expression from which his adopted pen name derived.

The city's population reached 47,000 in 1930 and essentially stopped growing after that. In June 1972 flood waters from Hurricane Agnes filled buildings along the Chemung River with as much as six feet of water, wiping out most of the downtown area. Many of the buildings that survived the subsequent urban renewal program are civic buildings and it is a fine collection reflecting Elmira's one-time status as the the most important city in New York's Southern Tier. But before we visit them our walking tour will begin at the oldest commercial building in the city, one that was standing back when that mischievous Elmira was still alive...

1. Chemung Canal Bank Building
415 East Water Street

This is the oldest commercial building in Elmira, constructed in 1833 when the Chemung Canal opened and a place was needed to store all the new cash pouring into town. Constructed of brick during a time when most town structures were wood, the building has indeed endured. An Italianate-flavored third floor was added to the transitional Federal/Greek Revival styled building in 1868 to rent out as living space. A more classical appearance arrived in a 1903 remodeling by Pierce and Bickford. The Bank moved out in 1920 and after a half-century of use as office space the property was purchased by the Chemung County Historical Society which renovated the building in 1993 to house the area's largest history museum.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE
MUSEUM AND FACING THE
CHEMUNG RIVER, TURN RIGHT
AND WALK OVER TO THE CORNER
OF LAKE STREET. TURN RIGHT,
WALKING AWAY FROM THE RIVER.

2. Chemung County Courthouse Complex
210-228 Lake Street

Organized in 1836, the county seat settled in Elmira and this group of four government buildings evolved through the remainder of the century. The oldest building in the group also sports the last addition, an Ionic portico installed in 1899. The building was designed to handle the overflow business of the original courthouse and jail and new houses the District Attorney.

The centerpiece Italianate courthouse with its three-story belltower was started in 1861 and stands as an important work of architect Horatio Nelson White, who authored several other courthouses in New York State.

At the southern end of the complex two castle-like buildings, the Chemung County Clerk's Office and Court House Annex, were constructed in 1875 and 1895, respectively. The pair were designed to blend with the existing courthouse with Italianate-styled decorations and painted brick.

3. Arnot Art Museum
235 Lake Street

Scottish-born John Arnot came to this area in 1819 as a 30-year old merchant and became one of the young community's first business and political leaders. By 1833, when he constructed this brick Greek Revival house with fluted Ionic portico, Arnot was the town's richest man and first president of the Chemung Canal Bank. His son Matthias followed him into the banking game and became an early promoter of manned flight in the United States and an avid collector of paintings and sculptures. At his death, Arnot bequeathed the house he was born in as well as \$10,000 for remodeling it, \$200,000 for an endowment fund, and his art collection, to the community for a public art museum, which was opened in 1913. The permanent collection includes works of the Flemish, Dutch, German, and French schools.

4. Chemung County Commerce Center
**400 East Church Street at southeast
corner of Lake Street**

This was the second home of the Steele Memorial Library, built in 1923 with a \$110,000 gift from the legacy of steel magnate Andrew Carnegie. It was one of only a few of more than 2,500 Carnegie-financed libraries worldwide which did not carry the Carnegie name. The two-story red brick building trimmed with limestone was designed in a Colonial Revival style; it now houses county offices.

5. Lake Street Presbyterian Church
**300 Lake Street at northeast corner
of East Church Street**

In 1861 a group of 116 members of the First Presbyterian Church and four new converts set out to form the Second Presbyterian Society and purchased ground on this corner. The core of today's church was completed the next year and received an extensive Italianate makeover in 1876, bringing its appearance into harmony with the government buildings to the south on Lake Street.

TURN LEFT ON
EAST CHURCH STREET.

6. Elmira City Club
320 East Church Street at Lake Street

The private Elmira City Club has held an esteemed place in the local social scene since it was established in 1889. The first president was Spencer Meade, son of General George Meade, the Union commander at Gettysburg. The Renaissance Revival brick building on a rough stone foundation anchors this prominent corner opposite City Hall.

7. City Hall
317 East Church Street

Busy architects Joseph H. Pierce and Hiram H. Bickford were most responsible for shaping the look of Elmira from their office on Lake Street between 1885 and 1925. They designed several hundred buildings around town. Here they brought the ornate Neo-Renaissance style to the streetscape in 1895. The pediments are terra cotta figures representing agriculture, science, and the arts. With decorations on nearly every inch of the building City Hall stands as an early representation of the style that was to dominate American municipal buildings in the years to come. It also represents the height of architectural achievement in Elmira at the peak of its prosperity.

8. Century Club
214 East Church Street

The Century Club was organized in Elmira in 1880 with Alexander Samuel Diven at its head. Diven had been a United States Congressman from New York and an officer in the Civil War. He later was famously engaged with the operation of the Erie Railroad. The club's stated purpose was "to provide for social intercourse among the professional and business men." One who frequently sought recreation at the club, initially located in the Masonic temple and then the Robinson Building, was Samuel Clemens. Billiards was a popular activity although club bylaws prohibited drinking of intoxicating liquor, and "playing for stake, bet or wager." In 1905 the

club moved into this handsome Neoclassical stone building awash in pilasters and a columned portico. Bowling alleys were in the basement, lunch served upstairs and separate card rooms were provided for the wives of members. The club's 600-member roster dwindled through the first decades of its namesake new century and the building was sold to the Knights of Columbus in 1933. Since 1988 it has been owned by Yunis Realty.

9. U.S. Post Office and Court House
East Church Street at Clemens Center Parkway

Built in 1903 at the cost of \$275,00 under the direction of James Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the United States Treasury, the federal government received a new monumental Neoclassical home, replacing an office in the Masonic Temple. The lobby contained Vermont marble walls and staircase and featured oak woodwork.

10. Steele Memorial Library
101 East Church Street

The son of an itinerant New York Methodist minister, Joel Dorman Steele emerged from the Civil War as an educator who earned a reputation for discipline and academic excellence. He was recruited in 1866 by the Elmira Free Academy and over the next several years began putting his lesson plans on paper. His guides and textbooks proved so successful that Steele abandoned teaching in 1872 to devote himself full-time to writing. His sales would number in the hundreds of thousands of copies and Steele texts would be used for decades after his death in Elmira in 1886 at the age of 50.

In 1893 his widow Esther Baker Steele spearheaded a drive to create a memorial library to her husband. A spectacular five-story French Renaissance building was constructed at the corner of Lake and Market streets to begin lending books - most from the 6,779-volume collection from Steele's personal library. The library moved up Lake Street to East Church Street in the 1923 and into its current digs in 1979. The original Steele Memorial Library was razed in favor of a parking lot in the 1960s.

11. First Baptist Church
121 West Church Street

First Baptist was founded in 1829 with 38 members who met in each other's homes. This is the third building to serve the congregation, dedicated in 1892. The church is a variation of the Richardsonian Romanesque style pioneered by Henry Hobson Richardson, the most influential American architect of the post Civil War era. It features such hallmarks of the style as rough-hewn stone trim around orange brick; powerful arched doors and windows, a corner turret and mini-pillars. The building remained in service until 2009.

12. Trinity Church
302 North Main Street at Church Street

The first Episcopal services in Elmira were conducted in 1832 and Trinity Church was incorporated as a parish the following year. The present brick church was constructed between 1855 and 1858 on plans drawn by Henry Dudley who populated towns across New York with Gothic-styled churches, The Arnot Memorial Chapel was designed by another master of the Gothic form, Richard M. Upjohn, in 1880.

13. Elmira Popcorn Truck
North Main and Church streets

Italian-born Frank Romeo began selling "the best popcorn in town" in 1922, several years after returning from World I, where he was disabled. Beginning in 1929 the popcorn was dispensed from a hand-crafted truck assembled on the top of a Chevrolet chassis. Romeo worked this corner with his "Red Wagon" until 1971 when he finally called it quits at the age of 76. He sold the truck which put in another year of duty before being retired as well.

In 1986 the truck's owner, Kenneth White, offered to donate the Red Wagon to the city, which ignored him. Instead, a group of antique car enthusiasts formed the Popcorn Truck Preservation Society and restored the vehicle and later constructed a Carriage House for permanent display at no expense to the taxpayer. Today the Red Wagon makes regular appearances around Elmira, still dispensing the town's best popcorn.

**TURN LEFT ON
NORTH MAIN STREET.**

14. Park Church
208 West Gray Street at Main Street

The congregation dates to the 1840s and is steeped in abolitionist and anti-slavery history. Thomas Kennicott Beecher, one of 13 children of Presbyterian minister Lyman Beecher and brother of fiery preacher Henry Ward Beecher and sister of influential author Harriet Beecher Stowe, was an early pastor here from 1854 until his death in 1900. The eclectic Turkish-influenced church of limestone and brick was designed by Horatio Nelson White and constructed between 1874 and 1876. A bronze statue of Thomas Beecher stands in the churchyard.

15. First Arena
155 North Main Street at Gray Street

Opened in 2000, the multi-use facility has played host to minor league hockey, college basketball, concerts and conventions with a seating capacity of 3,800.

16. Iszard's Department Store and Tea Room
150 North Main Street and Market Street

Samuel French Iszard was born in New Jersey in 1868 and earned his retail chops in the dry goods business in Philadelphia. In 1904 he came to Elmira and quickly built a reputation as a merchandiser in his shop at Baldwin and East Water streets. On November 15, 1924, Iszard's moved into Elmira's first modern department store designed by local go-to architects Pierce and Bickford. The store became the standard-bearer for the shopping experience in the Southern Tier for generations before closing in 1993 after being sold to McCrory's of Rochester. Since the 1990s the old emporium has been home to Exotrope, a software development company.

**WALK BACK A FEW STEPS TO GRAY
STREET AND TURN RIGHT.**

17. Mark Twain Hotel
147 West Gray Street at Main Street

When a world-class hotel opened in Elmira on March 23, 1929 there was little doubt it would carry the name of Elmira's most revered citizen. The 250-room brick Colonial Revival hotel hosted the city's most illustrious visitors until it closed after 44 years and was converted into housing for the elderly. The second floor contains murals and a museum devoted to Twain.

18. Clemens Center
207 Clemens Center Parkway
at Gray Street

The Clemens Center was formed in 1975 and boasts two spectacular performance spaces. Mandeville Hall is available for intimate performances and recently restored Powers Theater transports patrons back to the exotic majesty of going to the movies. The 1,618-seat hall is festooned in gold leaf with spectacular murals and reconstructed opera boxes harkening back to its glory days when it opened as Keeney's Theatre in 1925. Frank Keeney owned a string of vaudeville houses in New York and New Jersey; Fanny Brice made her amateur debut as a solo singer at Keeney's popular Brooklyn stage.

19. *Star-Gazette*
201 Baldwin Street at Gray Street

The paper was founded as the weekly *Elmira Gazette* in 1828; it became an evening daily in 1856. In 1906 Frank Ernest Gannett, a 30-year old Cornell University graduate, purchased a half-interest in the paper, sowing the seeds for a news empire that would result in *USA Today* some 75 years later. Gannett took the *Gazette* and merged it within a year with the competing *Evening Star* to create the *Star-Gazette*. The paper became a morning publication in 1982.

TURN RIGHT ON
BALDWIN STREET.

20. Chemung Canal Trust Company
One Chemung Canal Plaza at
East Water Street

The community's oldest bank took its first deposits on November 2, 1833. After a year in temporary quarters, this is the bank's third headquarters, opened in 1971. The first now serves as the home of the Chemung County Historical Society; the second was cleared for the parking lot here. For its new home Chemung Canal Trust Company turned to an equally venerable local firm, the architectural shop of Haskell, Conner & Frost that had been started in 1893 by Joseph H. Considine. They produced a modernistic six-story truncated eclipse of a building. The firm still operates in Elmira as Foor & Associates Architects.

TURN LEFT ON EAST WATER
STREET AND CONTINUE BACK
TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT,
WHERE THE CHEMUNG CANAL
TRUST BEGAN ITS OWN JOURNEY.

Look Up,

Hudson



A Walking Tour of Hudson...

While under Dutch rule in 1662 Jan Frans Van Hoesen bought land from the Esopus Indians here but settlement never occurred by the Dutch or the English who seized control of New Netherlands in 1666. After the American Revolution in 1783, however, New England whalers began fretting that their coastal operations were vulnerable and sought a sheltered inland location.

Brothers Thomas and Seth Jenkins led a group representing families from Providence, Newport, Nantucket and Edgartown on a scouting expedition and sailed up the Hudson River. They found a harbor deep enough for sea-going vessels here in a place called Claverack Landing for its abundance of clover. The group, who called themselves the Proprietors, paid 5,000 pounds sterling for land and wharfage in 1783.

These folks were for the most part serious-minded Quakers and when they settled, they settled. Some arrived on the banks of the Hudson with pre-made houses on board ship. A grid was laid out and docks and warehouses built in short order. Some two dozen schooners in the whaling, seal and West Indies trade registered Hudson as their home port. Chartered as the first city in the new United States in 1785, it was already the 24th largest city in the country by 1790.

The whaling trade died out when oil was discovered in the western Pennsylvania hills in the middle-1800s but the Hudson economy had already transitioned to light industry by that time. Hudson factories produced woolen knit goods and beer and matches and flypaper and ginger ale and cement.

When those industries began to flag in the late 19th and first half of the 20th century, Hudson became notorious as a center of vice, especially gambling and prostitution. At its peak, or nadir, Hudson boasted more than 50 bars. The officially-tolerated prostitution on what is today Columbia Street made the city known as “the little town with the big red-light district.” It took raids by Governor Thomas E. Dewey to end Hudson’s unique approach to the erosion of its manufacturing base. Today, it is genteel antique shops that churn the economy.

Hudson’s architectural stew is as rich and meaty as any in New York State. Virtually the entire downtown has been designated the Hudson Historic District and features 756 contributing properties from the founding in 1785 until the mid-1930s. Our explorations will follow the progress of that architectural catalog which begins at the edge of the city’s namesake river...

1. Parade Hill
west end of Warren Street at Front Street

The Proprietors designated this hillside as a public open space in 1785 and it has remained a passive park for 225 years. It may be America's first land set aside for a scenic view. Directly below, the island in the Hudson River is known as the Middle Ground Flats. It was here that Henry Hudson dropped anchor in September of 1609.

Downstream to the south is the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse that was commissioned in 1872 with \$35,000 to help mariners negotiate the tricky channels around the Middle Ground Flats. Pilings were driven fifty feet into the riverbed and then capped by a granite pier. In order to protect the foundation from winter and spring ice floes, the north end of the base was shaped like the prow of a ship. A two-story, Second Empire style brick structure was completed atop the granite foundation. It was put into operation in 1874 and was a manned light until 1950. In the distance are the Catskill Mountains.

2. *St. Winifred*
Promenade/Parade Hill

New York City native John Watts de Peyster was brigadier general of the New York State Militia during the Civil War and after the conflict he morphed into one of the nation's first military critics, noted for his histories of the Revolutionary and Civil wars. One of his passions was erecting statues and here he commissioned his go-to sculptor, George Edwin Bissell, to create an image of St. Winifred.

Winifred was a fetching Welsh beauty from the 600s who rejected the advances of a suitor prince. He promptly lopped off her head in a fit of spurned rage. Her uncle St. Beuno burst upon the scene and killed young prince Caradog with some choice words, retrieved Winifred's head and set it back in its rightful place. From where the head had fallen, there instantly sprang up a well of pure clear water. St. Bueno coaxed Winifred to become a nun, a life path she pursued until her death, always carrying a red mark on her neck. Bissell's rendering of St. Winifred in a 12-foot bronze imagined her either before or after her momentary beheading.

WALK DOWN THE HILL TO LEAVE THE PARK AND CROSS FRONT STREET ONTO WARREN STREET, HUDSON'S MAIN STREET. IT WAS CALLED MAIN STREET UNTIL 1799.

3. Shiloh Baptist Church
14 Warren Street

The first Jewish congregation in Columbia County, Congregation Ohav Sholem, was incorporated in 1868 and settled into a meetinghouse on Columbia Street. The Jewish community in Hudson endured stops and starts over the next few decades until moving into this building, designed by Henry S. Moul in 1913. Moul was one of Hudson's busiest architects. The Jewish Anshe Emeth Synagogue was sold to the Shiloh Baptist Church in 1966. The Star of David can still be seen on the building in the stained glass and stone medallions.

4. Curtiss House
32 Warren Street

Cyrus Curtiss built this Greek Revival house in 1834. He made his money in the whaling trade and the octagonal cupola on the roof is a remnant of the New England seafaring days when anxious wives would stare across the waves waiting for their whaling men to return. Curtiss would be elected mayor of Hudson in 1844.

5. Robert Jenkins House
113 Warren Street

This splendid survivor of the Federal age of American architecture was built in 1811 by Robert Jenkins, third and fifth Mayor of Hudson. The elegantly proportioned house sports intricately detailed fanlights and sidelights in a pattern that is continued in the iron fence on the entrance steps. Robert was the son of the town's co-founder and first mayor, Seth Jenkins. At the age of 19 Jenkins was at the head of the first cotton mill in New York; he was 39 when he built this brick house and resided here until his death on November 11, 1819. In 1900 his granddaughter Frances Chester White Hartley donated the house where she was born to the Hendrick Hudson Chapter of the

Daughters of the American Revolution; today it houses a museum of Hudson Valley artifacts.

**6. First Bank of Hudson
116 Warren Street**

This three-bay Federal-style brick building housed the First Bank of Hudson when it was constructed in 1805. It features full height Ionic pilasters across the facade and matching Ionic columns on the small entrance portico. The building, currently functioning as an art gallery, is into its third century. The Bank of Hudson, however, was gone after seven years.

**7. Benson House
306 Warren Street**

As the town expanded up Warren Street away from the Hudson River in the mid-19th century fashionable Italianate buildings came to dominate the streetscape. This three-story brick house was in the Benson family for nearly a century and retains its original carved stone windows and cornice.

**8. Hudson Opera House
327 Warren Street**

Hudson architect Peter Avery delivered this Greek Revival building in 1855 as the first Hudson City Hall. Besides city business the first floor of the building was home to the Franklin Library and the First National Bank of Hudson. At various times the post office and police station could also be found here. The upstairs was always reserved as a performance hall and around 1880 the building - in the style of the day - took on the name of "Opera House." The stage saw everything from national lecturers like Henry Ward Beecher and Susan B. Anthony to cotillions to poultry shows. The government moved out in 1962 and the building stumbled along for 30 years, being vacant most of the time. It was rescued in 1992 by the not-for-profit Hudson Opera House, Inc. who began restoration to one of America's oldest surviving theaters to production-ready quality.

**9. Register-Star Building
364 Warren Street**

Newspapers have been printed in this building for nearly 150 years but it was originally built as a jail. Set back from the street, the front yard was designed for public executions although only one criminal was ever hanged in Hangman's Square. Beginning in 1835 the building did duty as the city hall and an assembly hall.

**10. First Presbyterian Church
southwest corner of Warren and
Fourth streets**

The congregation was formed in 1790 by the original Proprietors of Hudson. The present structure was built of locally quarried stone in 1837 on this location where the second Columbia County Court House once stood. The church's present appearance dates to the 1880s when the facade was enlivened with a rose window and piercing steeples installed under the guidance of artist Frederic E. Church. Since 1910 it has been known as the Town Clock Church.

**11. Evans House
414-416 Warren Street**

Robert Evans was a brewer who proclaimed his success to the town with this three-story brick house in 1861. With its ornate mansard roof, the Evans home was an early example of the Victorian-era French Second Empire style. The roof and attached tower are clad in fish-scale polychrome slate. The house was the first along upper Warren Street to be built with designed side and front yards.

Cornelius Evans inherited both the house and the brewery upon his father's death in 1868. Under the leadership of Evans the Younger the sales of its major product, Evans India Pale Ale, soared and necessitated its own bottling plant, which soon doubled in size. In his spare time Cornelius Evans served as director of National Hudson City Bank and was elected to two non-consecutive two-year terms as the mayor of Hudson in the 1870s. Prohibition in 1920 forced the brewery to close after 124 years of operation. The house was sold out of the Evans family in 1941 and later served as a synagogue and community center

before returning to residential use in the 1970s when it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

12. Evans Hook & Ladder Company No. 3
440 Warren Street

This was the home of Hook & Ladder Company No. 3 for more than 100 of its 200+ years of existence. Founded in 1799, the company moved into this Romanesque-flavored firehouse in 1889 and stayed until 2002. The company was named for brewer and patron Cornelius Evans in 1868.

13. Universalist Church
448 Warren Street

This old church building was constructed for the Universalist congregation in 1869. It features early Romanesque Revival detailing in its rounded entranceway and a slender Victorian tower clad in multi-chromatic slate.

14. City Hall
520 Warren Street

Michael J. O'Connor came to Hudson in 1879 and for 50 years was the architect of choice around town. Here he executed a Neoclassical headquarters in white Vermont marble for the National Hudson River Bank in 1907. The bank traced its roots back to 1830. The entranceway is dominated by a quartet of Corinthian columns and the building is capped by a dome of large curved stained art glass. In 1962 the bank became home to the city government.

15. Farmers' National Bank
544 Warren Street

The Farmers' National Bank was organized in 1839, doing business on this block on the north side of the street. The bank prospered rapidly and in 1873 constructed an elegant banking house with a price tag of \$71,000. This Colonial Revival building appeared after fire swept away its predecessor.

16. Hudson City Savings Institution
560 Warren Street

The Hudson City Savings Institution was incorporated by special act of the Legislature on April 4, 1850 and took its first deposit - \$80 by Henry C. Hutman - on October 7 of that year. There were only 180 other savings banks in the country at the time. This domed Neoclassical vault fronted by a quartet of Ionic pillars was designed by Whitney Warren and Charles Wetmore, in 1910, two years after they rode up from New York City to create the Columbia County Courthouse. The building does duty today as county offices.

17. First National Bank of Hudson
561 Warren Street

This is the fourth of the classically-inspired banks that filled this block in the early 20th century - and the only one that is still operating as a bank 100 years later. The First National Bank of Hudson was organized on March 25, 1864 at 167 Warren Street and spent time in the Hudson Opera House before moving here. With pilasters, a recessed entrance and restrained cornice it projects a compact strength from its corner. It is best known for its star turn in the 1959 crime caper *Odds Against Tomorrow* as the cash-stuffed target for Ed Begley, Harry Belafonte and Robert Ryan.

18. J. C. Rogerson Company
615 Warren Street

This has been the place where Hudson buys its hardware since 1832 when builders, blacksmiths, carriage and wagon makers found iron and steel of all kinds, nails and small agricultural implements. James Rogerson arrived from Mullingar, Ireland in 1858 to helm the business carved out by his predecessors. During his 40-year reign the Italianate-style cornice was added to the three-story Federal building.

Next door at #617 was once the Playhouse Theater. Although the stage is long gone, its Art Deco facade is still visible.

19. Granary
621-623 Warren Street on southwest
corner of Seventh Street

This rather mammoth Federal-style building required a lot of bricks to construct in the early 1800s. It was built to store grain but has always had street level openings for storefronts.

20. Diner
717 Warren Street

This prototypical World War II-era streamlined diner replaced an actual wooden sidecar diner that once operated on the park.

21. Park Theater
723 Warren Street

This late 19th-century building was adapted in 1921 for a run as the Park Theater. Nearly 100 years later it trundles on in decidedly less glamorous fashion. There was, at one time, six theaters operating in Hudson. The Park could handle 450 patrons on a strong night.

22. Warren Inn
731 Warren Street

Here is another former Hudson theater, this one built as the 600-seat Warren Theater and converted into a motel in the 1950s as one of the first - and most imaginative - adaptive reuses of a shuttered movie house.

WALK ACROSS THE STREET
INTO THE PARK.

23. Seventh Street Park
between Seventh and Eight streets
and Warren and Columbia streets

This public square was set out back in the 1780s but was used mostly as open space by transportation routes into the town, first by the Columbia Turnpike and then the Hudson and Boston railroad. In 1879 it was formally laid out as a park.

WALK TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE
PARK (THE SIDE FURTHEST FROM
THE HUDSON RIVER).

24. J.W. Edmonds Hose Co. #1
10 Park Place

Protection from fire was high on the agenda of the founding fathers of Hudson who, on July 5, 1785, ordained that there "be viewers of Chymnies, Hearths, and places where Ashes are or shall be kept, who shall view and inspect the same once in every Fortnight." Owners or tenants of every house were required to furnish leather buckets inscribed with the owner's initials to be hung conspicuously near the front door. The first hose company organized by statute on March 19, 1794. It would eventually be named for John W. Edmonds, a local politician and the first elected chief engineer of the Hudson Fire Department in 1830. He served until 1836, leaving before Hudson experienced two of its most destructive fires in 1838 and 1844 and this Italianate firehouse was built.

The Hudson tradition of firefighting is preserved north of town in the American Museum of Firefighting, built in 1925 as a monument to the men who risked their lives to protect property and people. The museum, one of the oldest fire museums in America, owns apparatus and equipment dating from 1725; the oldest engine was imported from London to New York in 1731. On display are hand pumpers, horse-drawn ladder trucks, steamers and motorized fire trucks. Many are ornately decorated with engine art that reflects the pride of the departments using them.

25. St. Charles Hotel
16-18 Park Place

The St. Charles traces its history back to the 1860s and the days following the Civil War. One of the early proprietors was William H. Van Tassel who came to Hudson and purchased the St. Charles in 1867 at the age of 27, after engaging in hotel-keeping in Greenport and Claverack. He owned the St. Charles for two years before buying the Central House. In 1873 Van Tassel left innkeeping to become sheriff of Columbia County, an election he would seem to have had little trouble capturing as he was described thus-

ly: "There is no business man in the city who has a broader circle of acquaintances, and one who stands higher in the estimation of the community where he is so well known. Thoroughly awake to the local and general public issues, he is always found among the active promoters of all worthy movements."

EXIT THE PARK AT THE
SOUTHWEST CORNER AT WARREN
STREET AND SEVENTH STREET
AND HEAD DOWN SEVENTH
STREET, WALKING SOUTH.

26. Iron Horse Bar
7th Street at Cherry Alley

In 1994 Paul Newman portrayed Sully Sullivan, a ne'er-do-well handyman approaching retirement age and trying to reconnect with the family he abandoned years before in *Nobody's Fool*. The fictional Hudson Valley town of North Bath was patched together from Beacon, Fishkill, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh and Hudson. Here, the Street Grill played the Iron Horse Bar where Sullivan came to play pool. After the film crews departed the proprietors kept the name of the bar that stands hard by the railroad tracks last used by Conrail. The Victorian building dates to the 1870s.

TURN RIGHT ON UNION STREET,
HEADING TOWARDS THE HUDSON
RIVER.

27. Terry-Gillette Mansion
601 Union Street

This Italian villa rendered in brick in the 1850s was constructed on a design by Richard Upjohn that appeared in the influential pattern book by A. J. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850). The author called the dual-tower design "one of the most successful specimens of the Italian style in the United States." After its days as a residence waned it served as the town Elks Lodge for a spell.

28. Emanuel Lutheran Church
20 6th Street at Union Street Lutheran

Prolific architect Michael O'Connell created one of the Hudson Valley's finest wooden churches here with a variation of the Carpenter Gothic style.

29. Christ Church Episcopal
431 Union Street at Court Street

Episcopalians were active in Hudson in the 1790s and were worshiping in a church on Second and State streets by 1802. The current red sandstone church, one of the town's oldest, was completed in 1857 on plans drawn by Henry G. Harrison. The cost of the Gothic Revival church, including the lots on which the chapel and rectory were subsequently erected, was \$30,000.

TURN LEFT INTO COURT SQUARE,
WALKING DOWN COURT STREET
ONE BLOCK TO ALLEN STREET.

30. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
429 East Allen Street at Court Street

The first Roman Catholic church in Columbia County was organized in 1847 with services held in St. John's Masonic Hall. The following year the congregation was housed in a new brick meeting house. This stone Gothic church was erected in 1929.

WALK OVER TO THE
COURTHOUSE IN COURT SQUARE.

31. Columbia County Courthouse
401 Union Street

The county seat spent its first twenty years in Claverack before moving to Hudson in 1806. This is the fifth courthouse built in Hudson, the third on this site. Its predecessors met destruction by fire and this building was constructed almost entirely of granite, sandstone and metal. Architects Whitney Warren and Charles Wetmore, most noted for their design of the New York Central's Grand Central terminal in Manhattan, gave the courthouse a grand classical appearance without

overwhelming its neighbors on the square. They diminished the apparent height of the building by setting the main structure on a raised basement and stressing the horizontal appearance. The courthouse was dedicated in 1908.

WALK BACK OUT TO UNION STREET AND TURN LEFT, CONTINUING TOWARDS THE HUDSON RIVER.

**32. Post Office
402 Union Street**

The first mail in Hudson was handled in a store on Warren Street in 1793. Not much changed for Hudson mail for over 100 years until Congress authorized \$75,000 in 1906 for the construction of a dedicated town post office. Supervising architect of the Treasury, James Knox Taylor, whose fingerprints are on scores of New York post offices, is credited with the basic Neo-Colonial design in brick with stone keystones and roof balustrade. He added a pair of classically-inspired Doric porticos that echo the recently built county courthouse across the square. Completed in 1911, the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the only one in the county on the Register.

**33. Nantucket House
234 Union Street**

The earliest houses built in Hudson mimicked those its New England whaling founders knew back home. Some were framed in Nantucket and shipped ready-to-assemble to Hudson. Lower Union Street was once lined with such simple frame houses, usually one-and-a-half or two stories with a three-bay facade. Most are gone, many having been lost to conflagrations that torched Hudson in 1838 and 1844 - this house from the early 1780s is a fortunate survivor.

**34. Bolles House
225 Union Street**

The core of this house was constructed in the 1780s by Captain Reuben Macy, one of the early money men of Hudson. Richard Bolles, a shoe

manufacturer from New London, Connecticut, moved in with his second wife shortly thereafter, in 1793. Bolles died in 1836 and the house picked up its Greek Revival styling that it displays to this day. The house was in the Ryan family from 1880 until 2004.

CONTINUE TO THE END OF UNION STREET AT FRONT STREET AND TURN RIGHT TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Ithaca



A Walking Tour of Ithaca...

Perched at the southern end of Cayuga Lake, the largest of the Finger Lakes, Ithaca has always been defined by its unique topography. The gorges and waterfalls for which it is famous are ballyhooed today to attract people to the city; historically they have made it difficult for folks to get here. In the 19th century the railroads went elsewhere along easier routes and in the 20th century the interstate system similarly bypassed the city - there is no highway within a half an hour of Ithaca.

The first settlers with names like Yaple and Dumond and Hinepaw came west from the Hudson Valley after the Revolutionary War to claim land in the Finger Lakes region offered as a reward for service. Ithaca was planned by Simeon DeWitt, the State Surveyor General, and it was named by him in 1804 because of its location within the Town of Ulysses - the ancient Greek whose home was on the island of Ithaki.

In the 1820s New York was in the throes of a canal craze and Ithaca saw itself as a budding water-based metropolis. In 1821 businessmen put a steamboat, *The Enterprise*, on the lake. Ground was broken in 1825 for a grand new hotel, the Clinton House, to accommodate the anticipated water traffic. The village bustled into the 1830s but those railroads didn't come and the Panic of 1837 did and Ithaca's growth essentially stagnated.

One who came and stayed was Ezra Cornell, an itinerant carpenter who was hired by Colonel Jeremiah S. Beebe to manage his flour mill of Fall Creek. Cornell became involved with the construction of lines for the new telegraph and invented the idea of protecting wires on wooden poles with glass insulators. He parlayed his ingenuity into a fortune as a founder of the Western Union company. Cornell drifted into the New York State Senate and Assembly and used the state's Morrill Land Grant to create Cornell University on farmland located on East Hill.

Ithaca was known for producing high-quality shotguns and clocks as well but it would be Cornell University and the Ithaca Conservatory of Music that opened in 1892 and became Ithaca College in the 1960s that came to define the city, that was incorporated in 1888. Today there are about 30,000 residents of Ithaca and 30,000 students in the city. We'll probably see plenty of both on our walking tour that will start on a patch of land that has remained undeveloped since it was set aside 200 years ago...

1. DeWitt Park
northwest corner of Buffalo and Cayuga
streets

Abraham Bloodgood once owned all the land that comprises today's downtown Ithaca, about 1,400 acres. In 1795, Bloodgood transferred 1,000 acres to his son-in-law, Simeon De Witt, in exchange for services rendered. DeWitt would double his holdings and laid out the town that would become Ithaca. This lot became the town's first park, a portion of which DeWitt sold to the Presbyterian Church in 1810. It was known as Public Square Park until its name was changed to honor the town founder. Over the years the park has been ringed by historic churches and decorated with monuments to local war veterans.

FROM THE CENTER OF THE PARK
WALK OVER TO THE NORTHWEST
CORNER OF THE PARK AT CAYUGA
STREET.

2. First Presbyterian Church
315 North Cayuga Street at Court Street

This Romanesque stone building is the third church for the congregation that began in town in 1804 with a membership of 14. The first meetinghouse was raised in 1816. For the foundation of this building in 1899, all the stone of its 1853 predecessor was used. The church's seven stained glass windows were all designed by Maitland, Armstrong and Company of New York.

WALK CLOCKWISE AROUND THE
PARK. THE NEXT BUILDING ON
THE SQUARE IS...

3. Second Tompkins County Courthouse
121 East Court Street

Simeon DeWitt provided land for the first county courthouse in 1817 and a primitive wooden structure hastily erected to help prevent Tompkins County from being spliced back onto Seneca and Cayuga counties. It stood until 1854 when it was replaced by this six-bay brick

building, since covered in stucco. John F. Maurice designed the courthouse in the Gothic Revival style and it is the oldest such courthouse in New York and the oldest public building in Tompkins County.

TURN RIGHT AND FACE THE
EASTERN END OF THE PARK.

4. First Baptist Church
309 North Cayuga Street

Founded after the harvest season of 1821 by 23 people in Danby, New York, the church moved a few miles north to Ithaca in 1826. The first home for the First Baptist Church in Ithaca was built in 1831, with a young Ezra Cornell serving as one of the carpenters. Upon the building's destruction by fire in 1854, a second structure was raised and used until the growing community required a larger building. The present structure was completed in 1890, with financial assistance from John D. Rockefeller. Its architect was William Henry Miller, who designed a number of major buildings on the Cornell campus and in downtown Ithaca. Now widely recognized as an example of Romanesque architecture, the building has been called the "Jewel of DeWitt Park." In 1971 it was designated a historic landmark by the Landmarks Preservation Commission of the City of Ithaca. It is also listed on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Landmarks.

CONTINUE WALKING CLOCKWISE
AROUND THE PARK OUT TO
BUFFALO STREET AND TURN LEFT.

5. Boardman House
120 East Buffalo Street

This Italianate brick house, trimmed in brown, was constructed in 1866 for George McChain of the Geneva, Ithaca and Athens Railroad. English-born carpenter and self-taught architect, Alfred B. Dale, designed the house. Judge Douglas Boardman, who was later to become the first Dean of the Cornell University Law School, purchased the house in 1886. In November 1910, Grant Egbert decided to purchase the house and make it the architectural centerpiece of what

was then known as the Ithaca Conservatory of Music, soon to be Ithaca College. It remained the hub of Ithaca College's downtown campus for decades and even after the school moved to its present location on the South Hill Campus, the Boardman House continued to house the Ithaca College Museum of Art. It was sold in 1972 and today serves as private offices.

CONTINUE TO TIOGA STREET
AND TURN LEFT.

6. Tompkins County Courthouse
320 North Tioga Street

This courthouse is the third to serve the county, constructed in 1932. It was designed in a more traditional classical style intended to invoke the majesty and power of the law that its predecessor, created in a Gothic style associated with ecclesiastical architecture, may not have.

7. Temple Beth El
402 North Tioga Street at Court Street

The Jewish community in Ithaca began stirring in 1906 in the home of Isadore Roker. Temple Beth-El was formed in 1924 and there were only about 60 Jewish families (plus hundreds of students) in town when this brick, Middle Eastern-influenced temple was constructed in 1929.

TURN RIGHT ON COURT STREET.

8. St. Paul's United Methodist Church
402 North Aurora Street

The roots of Methodism in Ithaca go right back to 1790 when the town consisted of four cabins and about 25 souls. When a circuit-riding Methodist preacher named William Colbert was denied the chance to speak to the good people of Ithaca a Presbyterian named Mrs. McDowell invited him to preach in her house. A meeting house would come along about 1818 and today's handsome Romanesque church building was dedicated in 1909.

TURN RIGHT ON AURORA STREET.

9. The William Henry Miller Inn
303 North Aurora Street

There was no architecture program at Cornell University when 20-year old William Henry Miller arrived on campus in 1868. He would be the school's first architecture student although he was soon too busy to worry about graduating. Miller would design over 70 buildings around Ithaca and the Cornell campus, including this eclectic brick house for the Stowell family, prosperous wholesale grocers, in 1878. Confectioner R.C. Osborn bought the house in 1914 and his family lived here until 1996 and was opened as an inn three years later.

10. First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
306 North Aurora Street

Unitarians from Boston began preaching around Ithaca in 1865 and gathered in their first church, a wooden Carpenter Gothic meeting house, in 1873. For a brief time James Smith Bush, great-great-grandfather of President George W. Bush taught Sunday School in the structure that burned in 1893. Go-to Ithaca architect William Henry Miller provided the Romanesque-flavored design for the stone replacement church, donating his services in memory of his mother.

TURN RIGHT ON BUFFALO STREET.
TURN LEFT ON TIOGA STREET.

11. Town Hall
215 North Tioga Street

This was one of many post offices across New York State that was designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, James Knox Taylor. Constructed in 1910, the single story stone and brick building stands as a splendid example of the Beaux Arts style of architecture that was the go-to design for American public buildings in the early 20th century. The exuberantly decorated Tioga Street facade sports fluted Ionic columns flanking large arched window openings. In 2000 the building was re-adapted for use at Ithaca town offices.

12. Ithaca Commons

Cayuga, Tioga, Aurora, and Seneca streets

This pedestrian mall rode into existence in 1974 on a wave of similar urban renewal spaces that engulfed American downtowns at that time to combat suburban malls. The Commons was the first pedestrian mall constructed in New York, built entirely with local funds. Landscape architect Marvin Adelman won awards with his design.

Most pedestrian malls lost out to the big box stores with their convenient parking by the 1990s and re-opened to vehicular traffic but despite a similar decline Ithaca Commons - named in a contest whose winner evoked the country's first park at Boston Common - sidestepped that fate. Several festivals are hosted here through the year with the main celebration coming during the summer with the Ithaca Festival.

13. First National Bank of Ithaca

202 East State Street at Tioga Street

The First National Bank of Ithaca took its first deposits in 1864 and through mergers developed into a major financial force in the community as evidenced by this six-story Art Deco headquarters that was built in 1932. Architect Richard Metzger sheathed the building in Indiana limestone and polished granite and decorated the sleek entrance with marble and bronze.

The space behind the bank along Tioga Street was once the site of the Cornell Public Library, started with some of Ezra Cornell's Western Union millions in 1863. Ithaca's largest building was then constructed between 1864 and 1866, capped by an open octagonal cupola. Cornell contributed 3,000 volumes, with a goal of eventually holding 30,000. To make the library self-supporting, the building contained commercial space for a post office, a bank and other businesses. The fabulous building was sold to the First National Bank of Ithaca in 1960 which immediately demolished it to make way for drive-in windows.

**TURN RIGHT ON STATE STREET
ON THE COMMONS.**

14. Finch Block

158 East State Street at Tioga Street

Italianate was the dominant commercial style of architecture in American downtowns of the mid-19th century. This four-story corner anchor is one of the best restored representatives on the Commons with exuberant cast-iron window hoods and a decorative cornice at the roofline. Bookstores occupied this space for many decades; Dudley Finch was the first when the building opened in 1868.

TURN LEFT ON CAYUGA STREET.

15. Tompkins County Public Library

101 East Green Street at Cayuga Street

Lending books has a long, but not always smooth, history in Tompkins County. Circulation got off to a rousing start on March 4, 1867 in a magnificent facility that was the vision of town benefactor Ezra Cornell. Over the years the Library was home to many businesses and organizations and the large lecture hall was used as the Happy Hour Movie Theater from 1908 to 1929. That all crashed to an end with the Great Depression. After actually closing for a time in the early 1930s the library embarked on a peripatetic existence that brought it to its latest home here, in a converted Woolworth's five and dime store, in 2000.

TURN LEFT ON GREEN STREET.

16. City Hall

108 East Green Street

The stripped down classicism of the Art Deco style is apparent in this brick building that was constructed in 1939 for the New York State Electric and Gas Company. Today's billion-dollar company started humbly on October 28, 1852 with six Ithaca businessmen pledging a total of \$75,000 and incorporating as the Ithaca Gas Light Company. The following year methane gas lights appeared on Ithaca's streets for the first time. The city purchased the building for its government offices in 1964. The brick Greek Revival building on the northeast corner of Seneca and Tioga streets that had served as the Ithaca City Hall

since 1844 became the first victim of an energetic urban renewal program.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON GREEN STREET BACK TOWARDS CAYUGA STREET. CROSS AND CONTINUE ON EMORE BLOCK TO GENEVA STREET. TURN RIGHT. TURN RIGHT ON STATE STREET.

**17. *Cornell Daily Sun*
139 West State Street**

The *Cornell Sun* was an upstart publication when it was founded in 1880 by William Ballard Hoyt to challenge the school's original publication, operating since 1868, the *Cornell Era*. In its opening salvo the Sun boasted, "We have no indulgence to ask, no favors to beg." It has been an independent, entirely student-run Monday-Friday newspaper ever since. One of the nation's oldest dailies, the Sun became the first collegiate member of the Associated Press in 1912.

Among the distinguished alumni who graced the masthead of the *Sun* are E.B. White, long-time contributor to *The New Yorker* magazine and author of *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*; novelist Kurt Vonnegut; and pioneering sports journalist Dick Schaap. Since 2003 the paper has operated out of this one-time Elks Lodge, constructed in 1916.

**18. *Ithaca Journal*
123 West State Street**

The newspaper that would become the Ithaca Journal put out its first edition in 1815. By 1870 there was finally enough going on around town to merit printing daily. The paper was purchased by Frank Gannett in 1912 and became an early cog in the media empire that would one day result in *USA Today*. The paper has used these offices since 1905 and was printed here for a century before moving to a facility outside Binghamton in 2006.

**19. State Theatre
107 West State Street**

The State Theatre began life as an automobile showroom and garage for the Ithaca Security Company in 1915 - the expansive upper floor display windows betray its origins. Prior to that the two-story Bank of Newburgh occupied this site for nearly 100 years before it was hauled over to Court Street in 1912. The Berenstein family purchased the building in 1928 with designs on converting the space into a movie and vaudeville house. Not that Ithaca was lacking in entertainment options - at one point downtown boasted seventeen grand theaters. But the Berensteins saw their new venue as a place to transport patrons to exotic locales of the mind and hired architect Victor Rigaumont to incorporate Moorish, Gothic and Renaissance motifs into the transformation of the old garage. Tiny lights resembling stars were inserted into the painted ceiling and movie-goers on opening night, December 6, 1928, were greeted by an indoor cloud machine. The State survived until the 1990s, outlasting every other movie palace in Ithaca. Ultimately it dodged the wrecking ball and has been revived as an active stage by volunteers.

TURN LEFT ON CAYUGA STREET.

**20. Clinton House
120 North Cayuga Street**

When it was constructed between 1828 and 1829 at a cost of \$25,000 the Clinton House was more than worthy to carry the name of DeWitt Clinton, two-time governor of New York and prime mover in the construction of the Erie Canal. The massive five-story hotel was designed in the Greek Revival style with each of the front columns composed of a single oak tree, surrounded by layers of brick, with a stucco outer coating. The building contained over 150 rooms for guest and offices and stood out of all proportion in a rural community of less than 4,000 folks, clearly looking towards the future. A local newspaper, the *Casket*, described the Clinton House as "a hotel of superior order and of the first class...equalled by few and surpassed by none in the State."

In its nearly 180 years the Clinton House has survived a Victorian makeover by prominent local architect William H. Miller in the 1870s, a fire that destroyed the upper two floors in 1901 and various additions and remodelings in the 20th century. In 1972 Historic Ithaca purchased the Clinton House and carried out extensive restoration work; it now rents the property out.

TURN LEFT ON SENECA STREET.

21. Immaculate Conception Church
113 North Geneva Street at Seneca Street

Circuit riding preachers ministered to Ithaca's small band of Catholics until a parish was formed in 1848. There were two churches erected here before this Gothic Revival structure by architect A. B. Wood was raised in 1896. It is actually constructed of two colors of stone - pinkish brown beneath the water table and orange buff above. The entrances on Seneca Street are beneath Gothic arches and the outer architraves are supported by pink marble Corinthian columns.

22. St. Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church
120 West Seneca Street at Geneva Street

The first to worship at this site were members of the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church who erected a simple Greek Revival meetinghouse here in 1831. The congregation became disenchanted with the Reformed Church in the 1870s and had to go to court to sever their bonds and form an independent Congregational church they called the First Church of Christ. The first church of the First Church of Christ wasn't going to be that Dutch Reformed church so they tore it down and replaced it in 1884 with an impressive Romanesque building of orange brick set upon a stone foundation based on plans by William Henry Miller. Louis H. Tiffany contributed two of the stained-glass windows in the church that is dominated by a corner belltower. The congregation stayed until 1959 and after a short tour of duty as the home of the Ithaca College music department the church returned to ecclesiastic service when St. Catherine's bought the building in 1966.

TURN RIGHT ON GENEVA STREET.
TURN RIGHT ON BUFFALO STREET.

23. St John's Episcopal Church
210 North Cayuga Street at Seneca Street

St. John's Episcopal Society was organized on April 8, 1822 at a meeting held in the Methodist chapel. Prior to then the Reverend Dr. Babcock and a Father Nash had ministered to the Episcopal community in a missionary capacity. In 1824 the church purchased a lot on the corner of Seneca and Cayuga Streets where they built a house of worship. Bishop Hobart consecrated the building on September 11, 1826. In 1844 the church was altered and enlarged, and in 1855 a parsonage was purchased. The church was torn down in 1860 and a larger building was constructed.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO
THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT
DEWITT PARK.

Look Up,

Jamestown



A Walking Tour of Jamestown...

The “James” of Jamestown is James Prendergast, the youngest of eleven children in a family that bought 3,500 acres of mostly pine forest in 1806. James would purchase 1,000 of those acres from his brother for \$2 an acre with a mind to starting a settlement and manufacturing lumber at a spot of rapids on the Chadakoin River. By 1809 Prendergast had built a cabin and a dam, a saw mill and grist mill soon followed.

Weathering several fires, Prendergast persevered in his enterprise and in 1815 lots fifty by one hundred twenty feet were surveyed and placed on the market at \$50 each. Settlers indeed followed and in 1827 Jamestown was incorporated into a village. Among the early settlers were a number of skilled woodworkers who crafted furniture for the pioneering families coming to western New York.

By 1830 Jamestown was shipping forty million board feet of timber per year and the busy mills chewed up the stands of first class pine timber by 1840. In 1849 Swedish immigrants, many of whom were cabinet makers, began to settle in Jamestown. The first Swedish manufacturer of furniture in Jamestown, Augustus Johnson, began making doors in 1869 and the population would grow to be predominantly Swedish for many generations. By 1920 there were 15,025 people of Swedish birth or parentage in Jamestown, making the Swedes the city’s largest ethnic group.

More than 5,000 workers would be engaged by the 1900s in lumber-related factories and Jamestown would fashion itself the “Furniture Capital of the World.” Furniture-making remained Jamestown’s largest industry well into the 20th century and the city still hosts a handful of major furniture plants today.

Jamestown boasts an eclectic roster of native sons and daughters including actress and comedienne Lucile Ball, jurist Robert H. Jackson, birdwatching guru Roger Tory Peterson, National Football League commissioner Roger Goodell, and alternative rock musician Natalie Merchant and her band 10,000 Maniacs. And our walking tour will commence where many of the first citizens of Jamestown once rested...

1. Dow Park
West Sixth and Washington Streets

The first cemetery in Jamestown was established in 1815 in a pasture on the nob of a hill at Fourth and Clinton streets. The people were never happy with the remote location and rocky ground of the original graveyard (residents dug their own graves at the time). Fortunately, it didn't get much use - in the first 12 years of settlement only five adults and 12 to 14 children died. In 1822 a new cemetery was designated here and all but one body reinterred. With the town growing, however, this burial ground was a busy place and by 1858 plans were hatched for today's expansive Lake View Cemetery at North Main and Buffalo streets. Its most famous resident is Lucille Ball, who was buried in the Highland Section of Lake View Cemetery in 1989 after she died at the age of 77 following heart surgery. Today's 1.5-acre, city-block Dow Park offers a passive green respite.

EXIT DOW PARK AT THE
SOUTHEAST CORNER AT CHERRY
STREET AND WEST SIXTH STREET.
WALK SOUTH ON CHERRY STREET
ONE BLOCK TO FIFTH STREET.

2. James Prendergast Library Association
509 Cherry Street

In 1879 James Prendergast, the grandson of the city's founder, died at the age of 31. In his memory his parents constructed this library at a cost of \$60,000. In addition it was furnished with a \$45,000 art gallery. Architect A.J. Warner of Rochester designed the building in the Richardsonian Romanesque style in the fashion of the leading architect of the day, Henry Hobson Richardson. It features trademarks of the style such as rough-faced stone, a corner turret and triplet arched windows. Following Mary Prendergast's instructions, the stone steps leading to the building from Fifth Street were cut from a single stone "...to eliminate the havoc that frost works with masonry in this climate." The Prendergast Library opened on December 1, 1891 with 8,666 volumes available for check-out.

TURN LEFT ON FIFTH STREET,
WALKING EAST.

3. Marvin House
northwest corner of Fifth and Main streets

In the 1880s forty-something Robert Newland Marvin was known around Jamestown as the town's most eligible bachelor as he managed his father's prosperous business and extensive estate. In 1889, 24-year old beauty Elizabeth Warner, daughter of Lucius Bolles Warner, furniture manufacturer and prime mover behind the Jamestown Street Railway and other town interests, won Marvin's heart. After their wedding Marvin purchased an eight-room farmhouse owned by Mrs. Richard Lewis here and renovated it into one of the most well-regarded houses in western New York.

Through her life Mrs. Marvin made the house available for charitable benefits and after her death in 1950 the Elizabeth Warner Marvin Community House was incorporated. Her will stated that the home be opened to women's groups whose purpose is "the moral and mental improvement of women in literary, musical, educational, patriotic, scientific and historical fields."

4. Tew Mansion
**413 North Main Street at southwest
corner of Fifth Street**

George Washington Tew arrived in Jamestown as a tinsmith. He became a lawyer and eventually became president of the City National Bank. His sons followed him into the corner office at the bank. In 1880 George Washington Tew, Jr. purchased this property and began construction of this fine brick French Second Empire home.

The first building on this site was a two-story barn-like structure constructed by James Prendergast in 1816 as the first schoolhouse in Jamestown. Students at the Prendergast Academy were drilled in English, Grammar and Latin. In 1828 the school moved out and the First Congregational Church moved in, remaining until 1869.

The Tew family sold the house in 1895 for \$25,000 and the building commenced duty as the Jamestown Club, an exclusive men's club.

The club disbanded in 1923 and the building was purchased by Charles Goodell who used it as offices for his medical practice. After the Goodells departed in 1979 the grand mansion was slated for demolition but was saved by the Gebbie Foundation and restored as the historic northern gateway to the town.

TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET
AND WALK A HALF-BLOCK DOWN.

5. St. Luke's Episcopal Church
410 North Main Street

The Episcopalians of Jamestown organized in 1834 but did not have a house of worship until 1856 when a wooden meetinghouse was raised on this corner. The church burned in 1862 and on its foundation was constructed this fire-proof church of Medina sandstone. The clock tower contains the only chime of bells in Jamestown.

Adolphus Fletcher, who learned the printing trade in Worcester, Massachusetts, churned out Jamestown's first newspaper on a wooden printing press on the second floor of a wooden building on this site. The first issue of the *Jamestown Journal* appeared on the streets on June 21, 1826. The building was removed in 1854 to make room for the original St. Luke's church.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO FIFTH
STREET AND TURN RIGHT,
CONTINUING TO WALK EAST.

6. Ahrens Mansion
15 East Fifth Street

George Ahrens used his coal and oil fortune to build what was widely regarded as the most elaborate residence in Jamestown in 1898. The Beaux Arts mansion is accessed through a colonnade of impressive fluted Ionic columns. The columns were carved in a single piece and transported to the site.

7. First Covenant Church
520 Spring Street at Fifth Street

At least seven Swedish-speaking congregations were founded in Jamestown through the years, the first being the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church in 1852. The First Covenant Church was established in 1879. Its meetinghouse from 1897 perished in a fire in 1950 and the current Neo-Colonial church was ready for service in 1952.

8. First Presbyterian Church
509 Prendergast Avenue at Fifth Avenue

The First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1834 by Reverend E. J. Gillett, ministering to 41 members of the Congregational church having withdrawn to unite in its formation. In 1837 a substantial church edifice was built of wood, on the corner of West Third and Cherry streets. This building was burned in 1877, but was replaced with this commodious brick edifice, the interior of which was destroyed by fire in 1890.

TURN RIGHT AT
PRENDERGAST AVENUE.

9. Robert H. Jackson Center
305 East Fourth Street at
Prendergast Avenue

In 1832 Alonzo Kent arrived in Jamestown from his native New England with the proverbial 50 cents in his pocket. He began his life in town by setting up a writing school before entering the dry goods business. In 1853 he opened a bank in his store that a decade later would become the First National Bank of Jamestown. By that time Kent had also built one of the largest hotels on Lake Chautauqua and bought a farm to indulge his passion for fast racehorses. In 1858 Kent built this exuberant Italianate mansion, the first brick home in Jamestown. Inside, the house was crafted from the finest woods. After the Kent family passed on the property was used as a Masonic lodge house and in 2001 title passed to the Robert H. Jackson Center.

Pennsylvania-born Robert H. Jackson moved with his family to the Jamestown area in 1897 when he was five years old. With only a high school education, Jackson apprenticed in a law office and

attended Albany Law School for a year which was enough for him to pass the New York State Bar and become a noted Jamestown trial lawyer. After twenty years of private practice he was tapped by Franklin Roosevelt to serve as general counsel at the Internal Revenue Service in 1934. Within a decade he went on to become Solicitor General, Attorney General and an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Jackson capped one of America's finest judicial careers as Chief of Counsel for the United States at the first Nuremberg Trial in 1945 and 1946.

CONTINUE TO THE END OF
PRENDERGAST AVENUE AT EAST
SECOND STREET AND TURN
RIGHT.

10. The Lucille Ball Little Theater
18-24 East Second Street

Abner E. Allen was Jamestown's leading showman of the late 19th century, operating Allen's Opera House in the 1870s. He located at this site in 1881 after a fire destroyed his venue on East Third Street. Another fire in 1894 drove him to sell his theater to Charles Samuels who eventually sold out to the Shea's theater chain of New York City in 1919.

Little Theatre, one of America's finest community theaters, purchased the property in 1967. In 1929 an aspiring young would-be actress named Lucile Ball was cast in a Little Theatre production of "Within the Law." It was the first time she ever appeared on stage.

11. Bank of Jamestown
northeast corner of Second
and Main streets

The Bank of Jamestown was incorporated in 1902 and operated under that name until a series of mergers with the American National Bank of Jamestown and the Farmers and Mechanics Bank in 1931. This four-story Neoclassical headquarters anchoring a prime downtown intersection was designed in 1917 by New York architect A.J. Bodker.

12. Furniture Exposition Building
corner of Second Street and
Washington Street

By some counts, in 1900 Jamestown was home to 104 furniture factories and related industries. At the peak of the boom, Jamestown was second only to Grand Rapids, Michigan in the manufacturing of wood furniture. In 1917, Jamestown opened its nine-story Furniture Exposition building and began twice yearly furniture markets.

13. Erie Railroad Station
211-217 West Second Street

The first train chugged into Jamestown on August 25, 1861 on the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad. By 1865 a passenger depot was erected at the foot of Cherry Street that would serve the town for over three decades. This Art Deco station, designed by Erie Railroad architect Graham King, was dedicated in 1932, providing a streamlined, modern welcome for travelers between New York and Chicago.

TURN RIGHT ON
LAFAYETTE STREET.

14. Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena
319 West Third Street

Featuring two state-of-the-art hockey rinks, the community skating arena opened in 2002 as the centerpiece of downtown revitalization. It is the home of the Jamestown Skating Club, organized in 1971, and has hosted minor league hockey franchises off and on.

TURN RIGHT ON
WEST THIRD STREET.

15. Chadakoin Center
110 West Third Street

In 1893 Reuben W. Bigelow and Charles F. Abrahamson teamed up to bring high-quality goods to Jamestown shoppers. By the time the core of this building was constructed in 1906, Bigelow's was the larger of the city's two department stores. The building would eventually grow to six stories before the landmark retailer sputtered out of existence in 1979.

When the grand department store was renovated into housing in 2002 the building had settled and interior columns were jacked up to allow a new foundation to be laid.

16. Hotel Jamestown
112 West Third Street

The 10-story Neo-Georgian Hotel Jamestown was the hotel of choice for Jamestown businesses to put up visiting clients. Opened with a gala New Year's Eve party on December 31, 1924, the hotel featured a Crystal Ballroom and mezzanine dining rooms.

17. Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Center
2-10 West Third Street

Born August 6, 1911 and raised in Jamestown, Lucille Desiree Ball left high school at the age of 15 to pursue an acting career in New York City. She found little success as a model or as a chorus girl but a gig as poster girl for Chesterfield cigarettes in propelled her to Hollywood in 1933. She appeared in over 60 films without making much impression on the public. In 1950 she was offered a project on the new medium of television and under the guidance of her husband, Cuban band leader Desi Arnaz, *I Love Lucy* became the most popular show on television and Lucille Ball became the most famous comic actress in history. Behind the camera, their production company became the world's largest television producing machine which she would eventually sell for \$17 million in 1967.

The center manages two facilities: the Desilu Playhouse that features complete re-creations of Lucy and Ricky Ricardo's New York City apartment from *I Love Lucy* and other sets and the Lucy-Desi Museum is stuffed with costumes, awards, photographs and other memorabilia.

TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET.

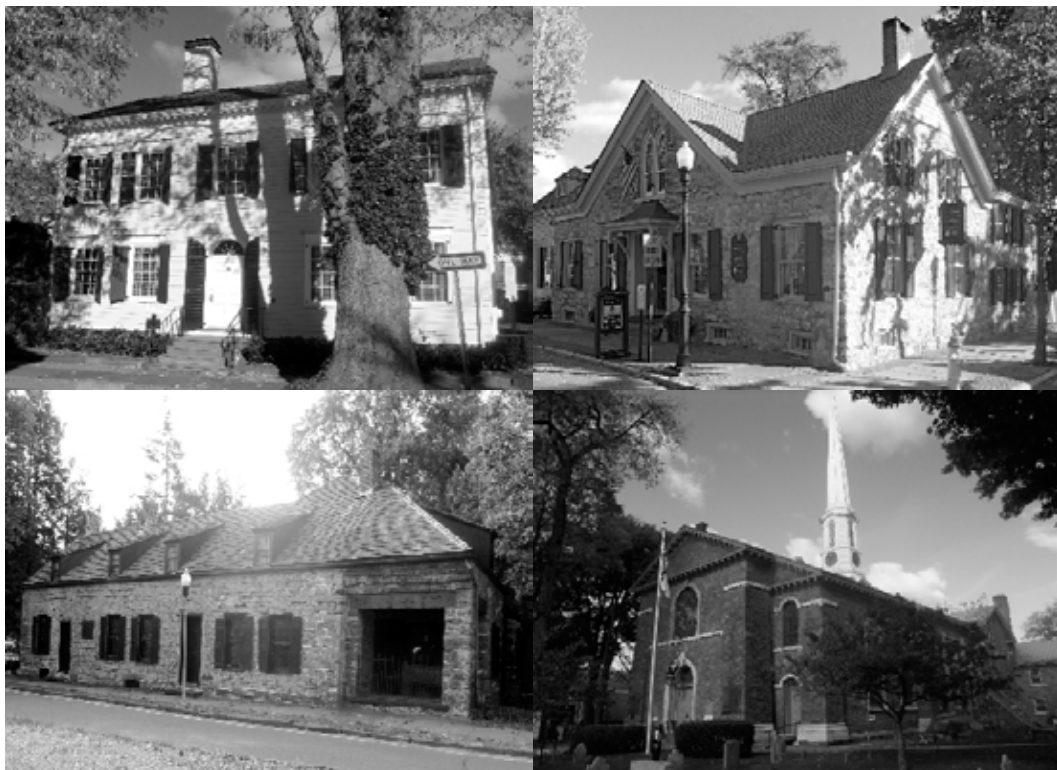
18. Benson's
306 North Main Street

The Italianate style dominated commercial architecture across America's downtowns after the Civil War. Here, these well-tended survivors were constructed in 1876. They exhibit ornate window hoods and decorative cornices at the roofline.

CONTINUE ON MAIN STREET TO SIXTH STREET AND TURN LEFT TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN DOW PARK.

Look Up,

Kingston



A Walking Tour of Kingston...

Between the main Dutch trading post of New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island and the distant outpost of Fort Orange in today's Albany was a third 17th century settlement called Wiltwyck, Dutch for "wild woods." The wildness in the woods turned out to come mostly from the local Esopus Indians and after a few unpleasant incidents the leader of the Dutch colony, Peter Stuyvesant, built a stockade of eight-foot palisades to protect the settlers. The village remained under Dutch rule for only a dozen years before the English took over and renamed the place Kingston. Although it was no longer needed, the wooden wall remained standing until almost 1700.

As the American Revolution flared Kingston became known as "the breadbasket of the Revolution" as area farmers supplied the Continental Army with wheat. In September 1777 the nascent New York State Assembly met in a stone house to draw up a new constitution and Kingston briefly became New York State's first capital. On October 7 the legislature disbanded before the advance of a British force under General William Clinton on the way to meet troops coming down from Canada. Seeing a chance to punish Kingston, Clinton landed and put the torch to every house in the village - some 200 structures - but one. The evacuated residents returned and quickly set about rebuilding their limestone houses, many of which stand today.

In 1805, Kingston was incorporated as a village. In 1828 the Delaware and Hudson Canal opened, reaching back 107 miles to the coal fields of northeast Pennsylvania. Valuable anthracite coal shipments arrived in the town of Rondout, now a part of Kingston, which became an important freight hub as the terminus of the canal on the Hudson River. Also shipping out of Kingston was native bluestone used to create the sidewalks of New York City. The dominant industry in town was cement-making after deposits began being quarried throughout the valley. Cement production reached its peak about 1900, when Kingston produced 3,000,000 barrels annually. In the winter ice was cut from the Hudson River and stored in large warehouses in town to be shipped throughout the year.

Kingston has evolved into distinct neighborhoods. The uptown area, the Stockade District, and the downtown area where the village of Rondout was located are the main ones. Our explorations will take place in the stockade area bounded by Green Street, Main Street, Clinton Avenue and North Front Street but first we'll begin in a spot that was just outside the 1658 stockade where Peter Stuyvesant met with the leaders of the local Esopus Indians...

1. Academy Green Park
238 Clinton Avenue at Albany Avenue

Governor Peter Stuyvesant negotiated a peace treaty for the local settlers and the Esopus Indians on this ground and two centuries later Ulster county troops mustered here before marching off to the Civil War. The park takes its name from the Kingston Academy that was located here and which gave the ground to the City in 1918 for a single dollar.

Proudly looking over the passive grounds are the three men instrumental in the development of early New York: Henry Hudson, Peter Stuyvesant and George Clinton. The statues were installed in 1950 but actually cast back in 1898 and were destined for the scrap heap when Emily Crane Chadbourne rescued them and orchestrated their installment on slabs of native Kingston bluestone.

WALK OVER TO CLINTON AVENUE AND TURN RIGHT, CROSSING OVER THE INTERSECTION WITH ALBANY AVENUE, ANGLING IN FROM YOUR RIGHT.

2. Kirkland Hotel
2 Main Street at Clinton Avenue

This Tudor Revival commercial building appeared on the Kingston streetscape in 1899, replacing a lumberyard on this prominent corner. Under various ownership the hotel evolved into the place to gather in town, known popularly as the Dutch Rathskellar before closing in the late 1960s. The Kirkland received a \$4.7 million facelift in the early 2000s and stands as a rare surviving example of a wood-frame urban hotel.

3. Senate House
312 Fair Street along Clinton Avenue

Colonel Wessel Ten Broeck built this one-story limestone house about 1676. A century later it was the home of merchant Abraham Van Gaasbeek when the first meeting of the newly elected New York State Senate convened here. The session was interrupted on October 16, 1777 when the British plundered and burned the

town. The rooms in the Senate House appear as they did in 1777; a museum in the rear features more objects relating to the government's work, including the crafting of the first New York constitution.

CONTINUE ON THE STREET AS IT BENDS TO THE LEFT AND BECOMES FRONT STREET AND YOU ENTER A COMMERCIAL AREA, SPRINKLED WITH MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY ITALIANATE STRUCTURES. CONTINUE TO GREEN STREET.

4. Hoffman House
94 North Front Street at Green Street

Although constructed in 1679, after the British replaced the original Dutch settlers, this rubble-stone house was raised in the traditional Dutch style and is a rare example of the form to survive basically unchanged. The Hoffman family occupied the house for 201 years, until 1908. Since then it has served as headquarters for the local Salvation Army and, most recently, as a restaurant.

TURN LEFT ON GREEN STREET AND TURN LEFT ON JOHN STREET AND CONTINUE ONE BLOCK TO ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE INTERSECTIONS IN AMERICA AT CROWN STREET.

5. Kingston Academy
southwest corner of John and Crown streets

This two-story limestone structure housed New York's first academy, chartered in 1773 and opened a year later. The Academy was burned by the British in 1777 but classes were going again by the following year. Among its distinguished graduates were Governor DeWitt Clinton and painter John Vanderlyn, whose Landing of Columbus is located in the Rotunda of the nation's Capitol in Washington, DC. After 1830 the building was no longer used as a school and

has seen duty as a carpenter's shop, newspaper office, radio station and more.

6. Matthew Jansen House
northwest corner of John and Crown
streets

Matthew Jansen built the core of this house with 20-inch thick limestone walls before the Revolutionary War. After the British got through sacking the town in 1777 only those walls were left standing. The house was rebuilt in 1796 and after a one-story addition came along in the 19th century the property became a favorite of town doctors. It was then commonly known as "the House of Doctors."

7. Franz P. Roggen House
northeast corner of John and Crown
streets

This Dutch Colonial house was built by a Swiss emigrant, Franz P. Roggen, in 1750. It suffered the familiar British torching during the Revolution and afterwards the gutted stone shell's sturdy wooden beams were used as an unofficial gallows. Or so the story goes. When the house was rebuilt in the early 1800s the nefarious beams remained and local lore maintains the house has been haunted ever since.

8. Matthew Person House
southeast corner of John and Crown
streets

After serving in the defeated Dutch military „Sergeant Matthew Person, unlike many of his fellow soldiers, decided to stay in Kingston after being vanquished by the British in 1664. His house is one of four pre-Revolutionary War buildings still standing on the corner of John and Crown streets. The Person family resided here until the 1820s.

TURN RIGHT ON CROWN STREET.

9. Cornelius Tappen House
10 Crown Street

Cornelius Tappen was the deputy county clerk when the British burned Kingston and he

managed to save many of the town's records. The salt-box style house (the sloping rear projection gives it the appearance of a wooden-lidded saltbox) was the first post office in Kingston and reputedly the oldest house on town. The uncut and uncoursed stones betray this as a "rubble" house.

10. Henry Sleight House
3 Crown Street at Green Street

Filling this prominent triangular plot is a splendid stone house blending Dutch (hipped roof) and English (symmetrical five-bay proportions) elements. The original house dates to the 1690s; Hendricus Sleight, Village President, rebuilt it after the burning of the town during the Revolution.

In 1905 the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution rescued the house from the wrecking ball. The DAR hired Myron Steadman Teller to do restorations, one of the first commissions for the 30-year old architect. Teller would become Kingston's leading architect in the first half of the 20th century and cultivate a national reputation as an expert on the restoration and revival of early stone houses but at this point historical accuracy was not a priority. Teller improved the building's appearance with a Federal-style entrance and small porch.

CONTINUE ON GREEN STREET
AND CROSS MAIN STREET. AFTER
ONE BLOCK TURN LEFT ON PEARL
STREET AND LEFT AGAIN ONTO
WALL STREET.

11. St. Joseph Church
242 Wall Street

The core of this building began as a Dutch Reform church in the 1830s. After putting in time as an armory during the Civil War it was converted into the church for the new St. Joseph's Parish in 1868. The original Greek Revival structure was transformed through the years; in 1898 a new facade was installed and the bell tower installed.

12. Van Leuven Mansion
63 Main Street at Wall Street

This Federal-style house was constructed by 30-year old John Sudam around 1812. A prominent attorney, Sudam was a New York State senator who entertained the movers and shakers of the day in his fashionable home.

The Van Leuven family moved in during the 1880s. It is now the Fred J. Johnston Museum of American Antiques. Johnston, one of the first consultants to the world famous Winterthur Museum of decorative arts, purchased the deteriorating house in 1938 and spent over 50 years caring for it, restoring the exterior totally and making only necessary subtle changes to the interior.

TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.

13. Wiltwyck Inn
48 Main Street

This brick building is an original creation of architect Myron Teller, not a restoration. He dipped into the Dutch architectural playbook with patterned brickwork and stepped gables although the original Dutch settlement most likely did not have any buildings with such affectations. The building was commissioned by Mary Kenney around 1910. She operated her Wiltwyck Inn that catered to the emerging automobile touring trade. The enterprise lasted only a decade or so and has operated as a commercial building ever since.

CROSS THE STREET INTO THE
CHURCHYARD OF OLD DUTCH
CHURCH.

14. Old Dutch Church
272 Wall Street

The congregation of the First Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Kingston was organized in 1659 after an appeal to Peter Stuyvesant for a house of worship in his third oldest settlement in New Netherlands. The present church structure, built in 1852 of local bluestone, is the third to be sited on the same

plot of land inside the original Stockade Area of Kingston. Influential early American architect Minard Lefever contributed the much-admired Classical Revival design.

The burial ground surrounding the church has existed since its inception. The earliest gravestone, preserved in the museum, dates to 1710. There are at least 71 Revolutionary War veterans buried in the churchyard and the first governor of New York, George Clinton, is also interred here. For over 175 years, Old Dutch was the only church in Kingston and spawned over 50 daughter churches throughout the Hudson River Valley.

WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED
EXPLORING OLD DUTCH
CHURCH WALK BACK OVER TO
WALL STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

15. Ulster County Courthouse
285 Wall Street

Laws have been bandied about this site since 1683 when the newly formed County of Ulster put up a two-story stone building to serve as a jail and courthouse. The present Ulster County Courthouse was constructed in 1789. Ulster County native Sojourner Truth, the famous abolitionist and women's rights activist, successfully saved her son from slavery by arguing his case here.

16. Leventhal Building
288 Wall Street

This ornate brick building was constructed in 1888 as the Leventhal Bros. Furrier and Showroom. Note the etched stone window lintels and the decorative metal cornice at the roofline. The Leventhals switched from furs to fine casual and dress wear in the mid-1900s and remained in business until 1992.

17. Clermont Building
295-299 Wall Street at John Street

Look up above the compromised street level facade of this substantial late 19th century commercial building to see its well-preserved mansard roof punctuated by decorative gabled

windows. The roof retains its fanciful metal cresting as well.

TURN RIGHT ON JOHN STREET.
TURN RIGHT ON FAIR STREET.

18. Opera House Office Building
275 Fair Street

This building was constructed right after the Civil War in the 1860s and was known for years as the Kingston Music Hall. It was a second floor theater capable of seating about one thousand people and in its day was a good stage, well supplied with scenery, and hosted all the famous players of the age. The ground floor hosted various businesses and the town post office for years.

19. Volunteer Fireman's Museum
265 Fair Street

The citizens of Kingston ordered their first fire engine from England in 1754. It arrived three years later and served for two decades until the pumper was burned with the rest of the town by the British. This Italianate-flavored building was the home of the volunteer Wiltwyck Hose Company, constructed in 1857. In 1981 Kingston's firefighters, then seven companies strong, leased the old firehouse from the city and converted the first floor into a museum featuring antique firefighting artifacts and apparatus including an 1898 streamer.

**20. Kingston Trust Company/
Rhinebeck Savings Bank**
27 Main Street at Fair Street

The Kingston Trust Company was organized in 1836 and set up shop in this Greek Revival headquarters behind a pair of fluted Doric columns. The brick building supports a wooden entablature and cornice with a classical wreath set into the frieze.

21. Saint James United Methodist Church
35 Pearl Street at Fair Street

Methodism in Kingston dates to 1810 when St. James was founded by Edward O'Neil, a native of Ireland who was converted from the Roman Catholic Church. The current Romanesque-style church was dedicated in 1894, its massive walls constructed of green serpentine stone imported from Chester County in southeastern Pennsylvania. The corner bell tower is 100 feet high and surmounted by a pyramidal roof.

22. Fair Street Church
209 Fair Street

The congregation of the Reformed Church of America organized by the Classis of Ulster on January 29, 1849 when the Old Dutch Church could no longer accommodate its 275 families. The Second Reformed Dutch was busy constructing its own Gothic Revival church a year later. It is a fine example of a spare rendering of the style in the years before the introduction of exuberant Victorian Gothic details.

TURN LEFT ON MAIDEN STREET
TO RETURN TO THE TOUR
STARTING POINT IN ACADEMY
GREEN PARK.

Look Up,

Lockport



A Walking Tour of Lockport...

There were settlers in these parts in the early 1800s, most notably the Comstock family from Connecticut who planted an orchard with some 700 trees and probably dispatched as many rattlesnakes in the effort. But if not for the routing of the Erie Canal by David Thomas, state surveyor, there would almost certainly be no town here today. When excavation began on the canal there was no frame house or barn within five miles in any direction.

Almost overnight there were 2,000 workers in the immediate vicinity. The canal reached Lockport in 1824 where engineers were maneuvering their way through a 60-foot drop in the raceway. The canal was opened in 1825; by 1829 Lockport was a village and in 1865 was incorporated as a city. The surplus water from that precipitous drop became the source of power for the town's growing industries. Products shipped out on the canal included electric alloy and other steels, towels and linens, thermostats, iron castings, wallboard and paperboard, milk bottles, paper boxes and felt. The surrounding farmlands and orchards made Lockport an important marketing and milling center. In the 20th century manufacturing parts for General Motors became the biggest game in town.

In 1974, the "Lockport Industrial District" was formed, including the Hydraulic Tunnel, a 1700-foot underground power tunnel constructed during the early 1850s by Birdsill Holly. The tunnel provided water for mechanical power to three manufacturing companies employing close to 2000 people. Our exploration will center in the district, where underground boat rides of "Lockport Cave" are available. The city was an enthusiastic player in urban renewal and notable buildings are spaced out between wide swaths of openness and we will begin at one stone building that survived the slaughter...

**1. Hamilton House/Erie Canal
Discovery Center
24 Church Street**

This stone building was originally constructed as a Universalist church and has served many uses over the years but is notable today merely for surviving when so many of its neighbors near the canal were ripped down. Its most recent duties have been as a visitor center and home to the Erie Canal Discovery Center, a state-of-the-art interpretive center for the history of the Erie Canal.

**WALK OVER TO THE CORNER OF
ONTARIO STREET AND CHURCH
STREET AND TURN RIGHT ON
CHURCH STREET.**

**2. St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church
76 Church Street**

Construction on Lockport's most impressive house of worship began in 1858 and was dedicated in 1863. It was known around town as the "Irish Church" as it was constructed for, and largely by, the poor Irish immigrants who came to work on the Erie Canal. The 161-foot high steeple of the Gothic-styled church would not be completed, however, until 1902. Look up over the entry for an alcove containing a likeness of Saint Patrick.

**TURN AND WALK BACK DOWN
CHURCH STREET TOWARDS THE
ERIE CANAL.**

**3. Lockport First Presbyterian Church
21 Church Street**

The congregation first met in a log cabin in 1823, then a small brick meeting house, and since 1855 this Gothic-influenced church constructed of stone quarried at the north end of Church and Lock Streets. The louvered steeple was an 1867 addition. Six of the church's stained glass windows are Tiffany originals.

**4. Big Bridge
Erie Canal at Main Street**

This is the fourth bridge to carry Main Street across the Erie Canal, the first being merely an assemblage of logs just wide enough for one-way travel. A wooden bridge, 105 feet wide, followed in 1843. It lasted until it was condemned in 1885. An iron bridge replaced that one and in 1911 work was begun on a large modern crossing. When builders were finished in 1914 the bridge covered 399 feet of the Erie Canal, one of the widest bridges in the world. Walking across it you won't even realize you are on a bridge if you are not on the eastern sidewalk overlooking the canal.

**5. Masonic Temple
2-4 Main Street at Cottage Street**

Lockport maintains a curious role in the long history of the fraternal Masonic Order in the United States, a history that includes George Washington and DeWitt Clinton among many others. In 1826 William Morgan, a veteran of the War of 1812 and variously an itinerant bricklayer and printer thereafter, threatened to publish the secret oaths of Freemasonry in a book. Although such revelatory works had been widely published in England and America apparently they were not known of in western New York. The outraged master of a Masonic lodge in Canandaigua obtained a warrant for the arrest of Morgan on the charge of stealing a cravat and shirt. Morgan was released for insufficient evidence but immediately rearrested for a \$2.68 debt which he readily admitted owing. The debt was quickly paid by unknown persons and as soon as Morgan was freed he was seized, gagged and pushed into a covered carriage. His reported words before disappearing into the transport were screams of "murder." In fact, he was never seen alive again, nor his body ever recovered, presumably carried away in the Niagara River. The incident ignited an angry backlash against the Masons. Governor Clinton issued rewards and individuals were brought to trial in Lockwood but no light was ever shone on the mystery. Orsamus Turner, the editor of the local paper, served some time in jail for refusing to cooperate. The stiffest sentence was given to Sheriff Eli Bruce for his participation

in the disappearance. The three-story Masonic temple is a red brick building trimmed in stone with Ionic pilasters separating the window spaces and an iron cresting along the roofline.

TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET.

6. Niagara County National Bank
50 Main Street

The first bank in Niagara County opened at the corner of Market and Chapel streets in 1828. The Niagara County National Bank organized on December 6, 1864 with a capital of \$150,000 and prospered mightily, moving into this Neoclassical headquarters with engaged Doric columns in 1907. The Niagara County Community College occupied the building in the 1990s.

7. National Exchange Bank
45 Main Street at Pine Street

This splendid stone vault became the home of the National Exchange Bank in 1920. Paul A. Davis, an architect from Philadelphia, contributed the plans for the oversized single-story Neoclassical building dominated by enormous arched windows. Lancaster, Pennsylvania-born artist A. Raphael Beck, whose father designed the bas-relief at the base of the Washington Monument, moved to Lockport to marry a local girl. He opened a school for artists in Buffalo and every year on his birthday, Beck would walk the twenty-three miles from his home in Lockport to his studio in Buffalo. He was a well-known creator of portraits and landscapes and murals. His mural, "The Opening of the Erie Canal, October 26, 1825," now the focal point of the Erie Canal Discovery Center on Church Street, was commissioned by the bank in 1925 to highlight its grand lobby.

8. Farmers Mechanics and Savings Bank
Locust and Main streets

The Farmers' and Mechanics' Savings Bank was chartered May 11, 1870 with Jason Collier at its head. Operations began in a store on Main Street and by 1906 the bank was successful enough to construct this six-story headquarters built on the site of the American Hotel, one of Lockport's

earliest guest houses. The Beaux Arts design was celebrated as an "ornament to the city." It was constructed like many high rises in the early 20th century to mimic a classical column with a decorative street level story (the base), unadorned upper floors (the shaft) and an ornate cornice at the roof (the capital).

9. United States Post Office
1 East Avenue

Normally in the early 1900s when the federal government decorated communities with a new post office they did so with formal, sobering buildings. Here supervising architect of the Treasury Department, James Knox Taylor, let his hair down and authorized an infusion of Beaux Arts classicism into the symmetrical Neo-Georgian brick building. Terra cotta trim was even substituted for the wood that was originally specified, adding about \$25,000 to the original \$105,000 construction tab. When the new post office opened in 1904 the second floor was set aside for a courtroom which operated here for 30 years. The post office is gone today as well and the building is now leased as commercial space.

10. Palace Theatre
2 East Avenue

The Palace was hailed as the finest picture house in western New York when it opened on Saturday July 17, 1925. The 1,750-seat theater was packed for two showings that night of Cecil B. DeMille's silent epic Ten Commandments with Theodore Roberts in the roles of Moses. The Palace was brought to fruition by the efforts of A. Edmund Lee, president of the Lock City Theater Company. Charles A. Dickinson, the builder, gave the theater a stately Colonial Revival look, unlike many stages of the day that sought to transport patrons to exotic spaces of the mind with their flamboyant decors. Like the legion of its fellow downtown theaters, the Palace closed in 1969 but in the intervening years it has dodged the wrecking ball, experienced revivals and continues to operate after 85 years.

11. Lockport Public Library
23 East Avenue

The first books were lent in Lockport in 1847 through the newly developed school system. For many years the Superintendent of Schools also served as town librarian with the collection housed in his office where an assistant checked out books. In 1891, after some years of existing in rented space in the downtown area, the library was given first floor space in the new Union High School on East Avenue. The popularity of the library grew every year until circulation was topping 150,000 books per year in the overburdened space in the 1930s. Using Depression-era relief funds, bequests from Mrs. Elvira Wheeler and Mrs. Ann M. Sawyer, and \$18,000 from the city, this Colonial Revival library building was dedicated in 1936 with a price tag of \$140,000. In the 1990s when an expansion more than doubled the usable space with an addition on Chestnut Street, the cost was more than \$12 million. Checking out a book in Lockport had come a long way from knocking on the School Supervisor's door 150 years earlier.

WALK AROUND THE BACK OF
THE LIBRARY AND HAVE A LOOK
AT THE MODERN SECTION.
THEN KEEP WALKING OVER TO
CHESTNUT STREET AND TURN
LEFT.

12. Lockport Ice Arena & Recreation Center
34 Chestnut Street

This old retail space, most recently a grocery store, has been purchased with the hope of bringing recreational ice skating back to Lockport for the first time since the mid-1980s.

TURN LEFT ON MARKET STREET.

13. Bewley Building
Market and Main streets

Possibly the most resplendent building ever constructed in Lockport was the Hodge Opera House, erected by John Hodge. Hodge made his money in the 19th century with Merchant's

Gargling Oil, a patent medicine "for diseases of horses, cattle and human flesh" that could trace its pedigree to Philadelphia in 1833 but was manufactured in Lockport. Hodge joined the company as a teenager, married one of the owner's daughters and eventually gained control of the company in 1865. It was the biggest and most prosperous business in the city. He imported 55 tons of Ohio sandstone to construct his domed, block-long Victorian showplace. Opened in 1872, the Opera House was on the top, or the third floor, and below were some 50 offices and places of business. America's most famous performing acts beat a path to Lockport to appear at the Hodge until the stage was ripped out in 1914.

The Hodge Opera House was twice engulfed in icy flames, the first time on January 5, 1881. Hodge immediately rebuilt but a second fire on February 25, 1928 sealed its fate. Firemen poured over 11,000 gallons of water on the fire that burned for the better part of 24 hours and destroyed the Opera House and the Merchants Gargling Oil building next door. Richard C. Bewley constructed the present building on the foundation of the Hodge Opera House - now fire-resistant. Stone from the original buildings is visible in the rear of the structure. In 2003, the building received a facelift of new marble, awnings, and windows bringing back the look of the building when it opened in 1929.

TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET
AND GO ONE BLOCK TO PINE
STREET AND TURN RIGHT,
HEADING DOWN TOWARDS THE
ERIE CANAL.

14. Old City Hall
2 Pine Street

Benjamin Moore built a trapezoidal-shaped flour and grist mill of Lockport limestone here in 1859. In the 1880s the building was converted into one of the first water pumping plants in America. Its industrial days were to end in 1893 when the building was spruced up and the town government moved in. During the Barge Canal Improvement between the years 1905 and 1918 the north foundation wall was used to form a retaining wall at the foot of Locks 34 and 35. The

old Canal Raceway runs underneath the building. It served as Lockport City Hall until 1974.

15. Locks 34 & 35

Erie Canal at Pine Street

Of all the challenges to be overcome in digging “Governor Clinton’s Ditch,” none was more daunting than cutting through the Niagara Escarpment. The first Lockport locks were designed by Nathan Roberts who was in charge of constructing the Erie Canal from “the mountain ridge” at Lockport to Lake Erie. To break through the bedrock first a specially hardened tempered drill bit was invented for the task. Then DuPont Company blasting powder, another newly invented creation, was packed into the holes and the rock blown apart. The canal was opened in 1825 but crews were back enlarging these locks by 1836. The enlarged Lockport locks operated until the southern tier was removed in 1910 for the construction of Lock 34 and 35 of the Erie Barge Canal. The north tier of the combined locks was left intact and passed vessels during Barge Canal construction. The old locks today serve as a visible reminder of the genius of the first canal builders in New York State.

**AFTER CROSSING THE CANAL,
TURN LEFT ON ONTARIO STREET
TO RETURN TO THE TOUR
STARTING POINT.**

Look Up,

Newburgh



A Walking Tour of Newburgh...

The first settlement on the site of Newburgh was made in 1709 by a band of German Lutherans led by Joshua Kocherthal in the vicinity of Quassaick Creek south of the present city center. As Scottish, Dutch and English settlers came to the western shore of the Hudson River the Germans drifted further inland. In 1762 the settlement took the name of a Scottish town on the River Tay.

Newburgh experienced a brisk river trade connecting wagon trails to Western New York until this business was diverted by the Erie Canal in the 1820s. But Newburgh's prime location midway between New York City and Albany did not leave it at a disadvantage for long. Railroads connected the city to the Pennsylvania coal fields and in 1881 the city became the western terminus of the New York & New England Railroad and in 1883 the West Shore Railroad provided direct connection with New York City.

In the latter half of the 19th century Newburgh was firmly established as a transportation and manufacturing hub in the Hudson Valley. Pouring from the city's factories were paper boxes, flannels, soap, iron and wire products, paints, ice machines, perfumes, carpets bleach, lawn mowers and more. The 20th century was not so kind to Newburgh. Trucks sucked up much of the shipping traffic on the Hudson River and in 1963 the final blow was landed when the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge opened destroying ferry traffic between Newburgh and the eastern shore and carrying automobile traffic past the downtown area altogether.

Newburgh has always been at the forefront of historic preservation. The town sported the country's first state-acquired historic site in 1850 and its Historical Society was founded back in 1884 and has been rescuing threatened properties since the 1950s. Its historic district is the second largest in New York state. Despite that legacy urban renewal was eagerly embraced and voracious in its execution on Newburgh. In the 1970s the city's historic waterfront area was completely demolished.

Our tour will examine the historic architecture remaining, standing in various states of repair. And we will begin at that very first preserved historic site, now a National Historic Landmark and a site that is depicted on the city seal, on which ground it was determined that the United States would not become a kingdom...

1. Hasbrouck House
Washington's Headquarters State
Historic Site
84 Liberty Street

George Washington used the house of the Widow Hasbrouck as his headquarters longer (almost 17 months) than any other building during the Revolution. Jonathan Hasbrouck, a prosperous merchant and colonel in the local militia, had finished the 1725 family home with a commanding view of the Hudson River in 1770. Hasbrouck died in 1780.

Washington arrived in April 1782 and created a significant amount of American history here before leaving in August 1783. He flatly refused the suggestion that he ascend to the head of an American monarchy in the coming new nation; he stemmed a budding mutiny at the American camp at New Windsor; he celebrated the formal treaty ending the war on April 19, 1783; and he created the first American military award - the Order of the Purple Heart. Only three were known to be given out before the long-ignored award was revived in 1932.

The Hasbrouck House became the first historic property ever purchased by a state when New York acquired the building in 1850. Constructed of fieldstone, it has been restored and furnished as a military headquarters. New York State erected the adjoining Georgian Colonial style two-story brick building in 1908 as a museum with artifacts from the Continental Army, including a piece of the boom used to protect the great chain that stretched across the Hudson River to hinder British access to West Point.

INSIDE THE GATE, WALK BEHIND
THE HOUSE TOWARDS THE
HUDSON RIVER.

2. Tower of Victory
Washington's Headquarters State
Historic Site
84 Liberty Street

Overlooking the river is the massive 1887 *Tower of Victory* monument. Erected with four stone arches, the monument commemorates the disbandment of the army, under proclamation of the Continental Congress on October 18, 1783.

It is nearly the size of General Washington's headquarters.

In the open section of the tower is a life-size statue of Washington copied by William R. O'Donovan from the great French Neoclassical sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon. Houdon lived from 1741 to 1828, and was one of the most celebrated sculptors of his day.

WALK OUT OF THE HISTORIC SITE
ONTO LIBERTY STREET IN FRONT
OF THE HASBROUCK HOUSE AND
TURN RIGHT. AT THE CORNER
TURN RIGHT ON WASHINGTON
STREET AND WALK ONE BLOCK.
TURN LEFT ON GRAND STREET
AND WALK DOWN THE HILL
THROUGH A VICTORIAN
NEIGHBORHOOD INTO THE
CENTER OF TOWN. ON YOUR
LEFT AT BROADWAY IS...

3. City Hall
83 Broadway at Grand Street

Newburgh's City Hall began life as a buggy-assembling factory operated in the 1880s by the Bazzoni Carriage Works. The City acquired it in 1893, and reworked it as a City Hall under the guidance of renowned regional architect Frank Estabrook. He adapted the roomy interior into a magnificent two-story City Council Chambers on the second floor.

TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY.

4. Van Cleft Building
79 Broadway at Grand Street

Joseph Van Cleft constructed this building for his 30-year old hardware and agricultural supply business in 1893. The lower floors provided warehouse and selling space and the upper floors came to be used by the Spencerian Business College that specialized in preparing women for the rigors of the business world.

5. Brewster Hook and Ladder
75 Broadway

The Clinton Hook & Ladder company organized in 1852 and was named after its long-time foreman Hiram S. Brewster in 1861. A year later the company settled into a this Italianate firehouse that remained in use until 1976. Most recently it has been used as a restaurant.

**WALK ACROSS THE BRICK STREET
TO THE OPPOSITE CORNER OF
BROADWAY AND GRAND STREET
AND CONTINUE WALKING NORTH
ON GRAND STREET.**

6. Columbus Trust Company
76 Broadway at Grand Street

The Columbus Trust Company was established in 1893 with the board of directors taking the name of the Italian explorer who sailed to the West Indies 400 years earlier. In 1902 the bank moved to this prominent corner and renovated a family grocery store by adding a stone Beaux Arts-style wrap around the first floor facade. The bank almost made it to the 500th celebration of Columbus' first voyage but was absorbed by Key Bank in the 1980s.

7. Masonic Temple
48 Grand Street

The cornerstone for the mammoth 30,000-square foot Masonic temple was laid on July 10, 1914. The building blended design elements of the Georgian Revival style (corner quoins and roof balustrade) with the Neoclassical style (small pedimented entrance and massive fluted Ionic columns). It was completed at the cost of \$160,000. The Masonic Fellowship of Newburgh sold the building in 1999 to A. Justin Sterling, a California relationship guru who used the facility for weekend retreats.

8. Wheelman's Club
49 Grand Street

Newburgh architect Frank Estabrook outfitted this clubhouse for the city's early bicyclists in the last days of the craze for Richardsonian Romanesque buildings in 1896. The architectural style pioneered by the celebrated Henry Hobson Richardson of Boston featured such elements as rough-faced stone and the broad, powerful entranceway arch seen here. From 1948 until 1969 the building was outfitted for use by St. Patrick's Church next door as a high school. Most recently, in its third incarnation the building was restored by the Newburgh Architectural Conservancy and is used as apartments.

9. St. Patrick's Church
55 Grand Street

Newburgh's small gathering of Catholics began assembling in area homes around 1816. Ground for a permanent church was purchased here in 1838 and construction begun by the congregation that then numbered about 200. It would not, however, be until 1849 that the church would be formally dedicated. Only ten years later the town's Catholic population had increased ten-fold and architect Rembrandt Lockwood gave the enlarged stone church a fully fresh appearance. The brick Second Empire rectory one lot to the south was completed in 1854.

10. SUNY Newburgh/YMCA
54 Grand Street

In 1858, only seven years after the introduction of the Young Men's Christian Association from England, Newburgh introduced a chapter and commenced meeting in a rented room at 78 Water Street. The group, 139 strong, didn't take, however, and dissolved in March 1861. It reformed in 1868 and began a peripatetic existence around town before raising \$17,000 to construct a handsome facility at the corner of Third and Smith streets. The YMAC moved into this spacious tan brick building that blends elements of the Georgian Revival and Neoclassical styles in 1912. They remained until 1996 and on the cusp of its centennial year the building houses part of the SUNY Newburgh campus.

11. Holden Home

73 and 85 Grand Street

At #73 the wooden Federal-style house was begun around 1840 and later picked up an Italianate square tower and detailing. It evolved into an upscale boarding house popular with widows and widowers known as the Oakley. Number 85 is a Second Empire brick home started by George Kerry in the 1860s but not completed until he sold the property to Dr. Smith Ely.

Amos and Sarah Holden came to Newburgh in 1890 from Vermont where they operated several successful paper mills. They purchased #85 and renovated it as they expanded their paper empire into the Hudson Valley. They later acquired the Oakley as well, converting it into a nursing home. After the Holdens died in the early 1920s an endowment prepared both houses to become residential retirement homes.

Recently the Holden Home did a star turn in the Hollywood production of *The Return* starring Linda Cardellini and John Slattery, standing in for a depressed Ohio River town.

TURN RIGHT ON FIRST STREET.

12. Hotel Washington

84-86 First Street

In the first decades of the 20th century civic leaders of small cities felt it imperative to have a grand hotel to impress potential business visitors. In Newburgh, the Hotel Washington was the result. Dedicated in June 1930 as the Hotel Newburgh, the name was switched to Hotel Washington after a public polling. The luxury hotel featured 148 rooms, now occupied by senior residents.

13. Ebenezer Baptist Church

76 First Street

In the 1800s, before watches and timepieces became available to the common man, one of the most important responsibilities of a town government was to provide a standard time. In 1871 the City of Newburgh spared no expense to fulfill that obligation. The city contracted with German-born watchmaker Charles Fasoldt of Albany to install one of his handmade clocks in the tower

of the Union Church overlooking the Hudson River - the highest in town. The cost of the clock was \$1,750 which was quite an outlay when the entire stone church cost \$60,000. But the city got its money's worth. The elegant Fasoldt clocks employed an ingenious mechanism that made them stand out among timepieces. Rather than have the hands of the clock perpetually in advancement the minute hands of the Fasoldt clocks remain frozen for 55 seconds and then snap ahead to the next minute. There are only four clocks of this type in the world, and this is the only one still in its original location. The Ebenezer Baptist Church was organized in 1908 and now occupies the historic property.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO
GRAND STREET AND TURN RIGHT,
CONTINUING YOUR TOUR OF
GRAND STREET.

14. Associate Reformed Church

91 Grand Street at First Street

The Associate Reformed branch of the Presbyterian church organized in 1798 and settled into a church on a hill south of town. They built it but no one came - the town expanded northward rather than to the south. So the elders had the building dismantled and re-assembled on this lot that had been purchased for \$900. The cupola for a church bell was added to the simple Federal-style church in 1834.

15. Newburgh Free Library

100 Grand Street

The first books lent in Newburgh came out of the Newburgh Academy library in 1815, considered the fourth oldest free public circulating library in New York. The Newburgh Free Library came into existence in 1852 with 2,001 volumes available; it was replaced by this ornate Victorian brick library in 1876. Busy Hudson Valley architect John A. Wood, known for his work on luxury hotels, put the decorative flourishes on the library, that wound up costing \$30,000. When the library opened in 1878 one of America's first lending card systems was put in place.

16. St. George's Episcopal Church
105 Grand Street at 2nd Street

Reverend John Brown was called as church rector in 1815 and two years later he and members of his small parish laid out the ground and hauled more than 200 loads of stone to the site to construct the church that was consecrated in 1819. His hard work was not in vain - Reverend Brown would enjoy the fruits of the labor for another 60 years as head of the church. During his tenure the original square stone building picked up a gallery, an enlarged sanctuary and a Greek Revival bell tower. The iron fence was installed in the 1830s after being obtained from Trinity Church in New York City where John Brown had been baptized. Today St. George's is the oldest church building in Newburgh and the four glass windows nearest Grand Street are original.

17. City Club
120 Grand Street

This brick house was constructed in the 1850s for William A. Culbert, a physician and cultivator of grapes. The design was a collaborative effort between Andrew Jackson Downing and Calvert Vaux who, in a two-year partnership, worked on many significant projects including the grounds of the White House and Smithsonian Institution. Downing, a native of Newburgh, is often considered the "Father of American Landscape Architecture" and was largely responsible for the development of the Hudson Valley as a fruit-growing center. The city's major park, Downing Park, is a tribute to his pioneering efforts. Downing died during a fire in a steamboat accident in 1852 and this is one of the very few buildings that carries his fingerprints. Vaux included the house in his influential 1857 architectural pattern book, *Villas and Cottages*, as "Design #22." In 1904 the Newburgh City Club acquired the property for use as its headquarters and remained until the club dissolved in the 1970s. The house was given a loving facelift in 1975 but was gutted by fire in 1981 and thirty years later the two-story hull of the house stands topless with its classical pilasters framing the windows, awaiting another restoration.

18. Courthouse/Newburgh Heritage Center
123 Grand Street

Upon its creation in 1798, Orange County courts were held alternately at Newburgh and Goshen, an arrangement that continued until 1972, when all courts were removed to Goshen. In 1841 both seats received nearly identical courthouses erected on plans by popular architect Thornton M. Niven. Niven was considered the town's first architect and was a master stonemason. The price tag for Newburgh's Greek Revival court house was \$13,000, the townsfolk raised the money for the surrounding open land. In 1998 the building was conveyed to the City which uses it for the Newburgh Heritage Center.

19. Dutch Reformed Church
134 Grand Street

On assignment from the Dutch Reformed Church in New York City, Reverend William Cruickshank arrived in Newburgh in 1834 to start a new church. Alexander Jackson Davis was hired to design a church for the fledgling congregation. Davis was to become one of America's most influential architects of the 1800s but at this point was still early in his career and only a few years removed from being an illustrator. He delivered a monumental Greek Revival temple, the most popular style of the day, for the church that was situated on a bluff 250 feet above the Hudson River.

The church served the congregation until 1967 when it was deconsecrated. The building soon faced the wrecking ball but efforts to save it kick-started the city's modern historic preservation movement. The face-lift, with a price tag in the millions, is still on-going and its four fluted Ionic columns were recently restored in 2006. In 2001 the church was named a National Historic Landmark as Davis' as the only surviving church in the Greek Revival style.

TURN LEFT ON CATHERINE
STREET. TURN LEFT ON LIBERTY
STREET.

20. First United Methodist Church
241 Liberty Street At 3rd Street

This supremely Gothic church sprung to life as the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church and was dedicated on November 13, 1861. The middle tower and spire soar to a height of 180 feet and the side towers are 63 feet high. The heavily buttressed building cost the congregation, which traced its roots in town back to 1808, about \$35,000.

21. United States Post Office
215-217 Liberty Street

The first post office was organized in Newburgh in 1795. This expansive nine-bay brick building was a Depression-era project shepherded to completion in the early 1930s by James Wetmore, supervising architect for the United States Treasury Department. The two-story Colonial Revival post office, capped by a cupola, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989.

22. Elks Lodge
155 Liberty Street

The Elks fraternal organization purchased this property in 1909 that once housed a hospital. In 1930 the Elks hired James Riely Gordon to design a new lodge. Gordon had been in practice for over 50 years at that point and had 72 courthouse designs, including a slew across Texas, to his credit. Here he delivered a distinctive Neoclassical building with a circular facade. The stone lodge features a rusticated base, a parade of pilasters and carved window hoods. Gordon passed in 1937; the Elks have also recently moved on but the building appears as fresh as it did 80 years ago.

23. Karpeles Manuscript Library
94 Broadway at Liberty Street

While at General Electric David Karpeles was a pioneer in artificial intelligence who created the first operating optical character recognition program and who developed a program that enabled the questioning of a computer using unrestricted English language. His successes helped fuel his passion for collecting historical documents. In 1983 the first Karpeles Manuscript Library Mu-

seum opened in California to bring these educational treasures to the public. Today there are Karpeles museums across the country that offer rotating exhibits designed to focus on no more than 25 documents at any one time. The Neoclassical building that houses the Newburgh collection was constructed for the Newburgh Savings Bank in 1923; the bank was chartered back in 1852.

TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY.

24. Ritz Theater
107 Broadway

This block-long brick structure was constructed in 1883 for the manufacture of overalls, plumbing supplies and cigars. In 1913 part of the factory building was converted into George M. Cohan's Opera House and the greats of the vaudeville era appeared on its stage. In 1933 Eugene Levy purchased the theater and renamed it the Ritz. Along with first-run movies the Ritz hosted the biggest live acts of the era including Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra. On December 17, 1941 Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz made their stage debut together at the Ritz with an act that would evolve into the world's most popular television show, *I Love Lucy*. The Ritz would close its stage in 1969 and the house struggled on as a twin cinema for a dozen more years. The Ritz was renovated in the early 2000s and its renaissance is ongoing.

25. Armory
135-147 Broadway

This fortress-like brick building was designed by John A. Wood and constructed in 1879. It served as an armory until 1931. After the guns and cannons were moved out it served as a supermarket, a billiard parlor and a bowling alley, among other uses.

TURN LEFT ON JOHNSTON STREET. TURN LEFT ON WASHINGTON STREET.

**26. AME Zion Church
111 Washington Street**

The Reverend George Matthews organized the church in 1827 after being sent upstate from New York City by his father. The first services were held in private homes and in the basement of the Catholic church on Liberty Street. This lot was purchased in 1833 and a church building was soon erected.

CONTINUE ON WASHINGTON
STREET TO THE TOUR STARTING
POINT AT WASHINGTON
HEADQUARTERS STATE
HISTORIC SITE.

Look Up,

North Tonawanda



A Walking Tour of North Tonawanda...

By the 1830s both the Erie Canal and the Buffalo and Niagara Falls Railroad had come together at the Niagara River, assuring the industrial development of the Town of Tonawanda that had been settled here back in 1805. The first to take advantage of the advantageous situation was the East Boston Timber Company that purchased timber rights on White's Island, now Tonawanda Island, in 1833. Soon they were loading barges high with fine white oak bound for eager markets on the Eastern seaboard.

But it was not the hardwoods of western New York that were to make Tonawanda but the seemingly limitless supply of high quality white pine from the vast forests of the Upper Midwest in Michigan and Minnesota and Wisconsin. In 1861, J. S. Noyes created the first practical cargo barge for open water by removing the mast and deck from an old schooner, an invention that revolutionized Great Lakes shipping. Timber would be loaded onto barges and pulled - sometimes four or five at a time - across the Great Lakes by steam tugs bound for Tonawanda and a trip down the Erie Canal.

Tonawanda, developed on both sides of the Erie Canal/Tonawanda Creek, split in 1865 when North Tonawanda was incorporated as a village. There was some ongoing nastiness over the use of a gravel pit but mostly the political management of communities in two different counties was becoming unwieldy. It was North Tonawanda that became "Lumber City." The first cargo of lumber unloaded for distribution was in 1867. By 1890 over 700,000,000 feet of sawed lumber was docked here and for a brief time North Tonawanda was the world's largest lumber port.

There were more than 150 lumber companies operating in town. Most were dealing in the usual suspects - fence posts, railroad ties, wooden laths and the like. J.S. Bliss and Company became the second largest manufacturer of shingles in the world, turning out as many as 56,000,000 white pine shingles of all shapes and sizes in a single season. The Ray H. Bennett Lumber Company produced kit homes sold around the nation and Canada for 70 years. But the abundance of lumber also attracted some more colorful manufacturers: Allan Herschell was turning out the nation's finest merry-go-rounds with hand-carved wooden horses by the 1880s and Rudolph Wurlitzer established a plant for crafting organs in 1908.

When the lumber fields were depleted and the railroads pushed further west, new industries of steel, paper, chemicals and auto parts manufacturing set up shop due to the established bulk transportation infrastructure. Today the lumberyards are all gone and so are the rapids in the water that led the Senecas to call it Tonawanda Creek meaning "Swift Running Water." Our walking tour will work into the neighborhood spawned by the wealth of that lumber but first we will begin at the spot that started it all, looking out at the western end of the historic Erie Barge Canal...

1. Gateway Harbor Park
Webster Street at Sweeney Street

The confluence of Ellicott Creek and Tonawanda Creek and, after 1825, the western terminus of the Erie Canal has always been the defining geographic feature of Tonawanda. Once the largest lumber port in the world, the area is now a picturesque park. Since 1983 the park has hosted Canal Fest, the largest celebration of its kind along the entire length of the Erie Canal.

**WALK AWAY FROM THE WATER
ON WEBSTER STREET.**

**2. Buffalo Suzuki Strings Musical
Arts Center**
4 Webster Street

Edward Brodhead Green was Utica-born in 1855 and moved to Buffalo in 1881 where he became, along with his partner Sydney Wicks, the city's go-to architect for nearly a half-century. Here he designed a Neoclassical structure in limestone and marble in 1928 for the Tonawanda Power Company and the State Trust Company Bank. The Niagara Service Building, as it was formally called, or the Power Building as it was generally known, opened with great fanfare on March 2, 1929. Today the renovated building is home to the Buffalo Suzuki Strings, a music education program and boasts a 300-seat concert hall on the street level.

3. Sweeney Building
**15 Webster Street at northeast corner
of Sweeney Street**

This is where William Vandervoort built his original brick home in North Tonawanda and later was occupied by a silk mill. The three-story Sweeney Building was completed in 1912 and housed the Tonawanda Power Company for many years. The entrance on Webster Street has been severely compromised by a modernization effort but the decorative stone carvings at the cornice line remain and the lamp stanchions on the roof have been restored.

4. Cramer Hardware
20-26 Webster Street

These two Italianate commercial buildings were united by John W. Cramer in 1900 when he joined H. Jason Knapp in selling hardware and supplies. The flat-roofed building to the south was built as the Kent Music Hall in 1859; the building to the north with the heavy Gothic cornice was constructed in 1877. A number of North Tonawanda churches began with their first services in this building. The Cramer business occupied the site for much of the 20th century, sliding into the industrial supply field during World War II.

5. North Tonawanda History Museum
54 Webster Street

The museum, which began operating in volunteers' homes, moved into this building in 2009. It once housed the G. C. Murphy 5 & 10-cent store that opened in 1928 and was closed by McCrory Corp. in 1997. The much-altered building (Murphy's covered the brick facade with a metal sheathing in 1965) began life in 1888, perhaps as a millinery shop. John Schulmeister operated a dry goods store here from 1894 until 1926.

6. Evening News Building
58 Webster Street

This is one of the buildings occupied by the *Tonawanda News* in its journey from its founding in 1880 to its present location at 435 River Road in 1960. In between, they relocated from here across the street to 83 Webster before their own building designed by Louis F. Eggert.

7. Dick Block
64 Webster Street

This three-story Romanesque commercial block, built in 1891, features decorative brickwork on the floors above its modernized street level. Over the years it has welcomed many tenants. The Witkop & Holmes furniture store was a long-time tenant and their "ghost" advertising sign remains visible on the north side of the building.

8. Riviera Theatre
67 Webster Street

The Riviera Theatre opened on December 30, 1926 as the "Showplace of the Tonawandas" featuring movies, vaudeville acts and musical events. Architects Leon H. Lempart and Son gave the the 1,115-seat theater an exotic Italian Renaissance feel and Ferdinand Kebely contributed the interior artwork. Amidst all the opulence, from the beginning the star attraction of the Riviera has been its Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ with 11 ranks of pipes. Even when the theater fell on hard times and closed for long stretches there were monthly organ performances. In the early 1970s, The Niagara Frontier Theater Organ Society bought the Wurlitzer with the provision that it remain in the theater. The club also spruced up the Riviera by adding a chandelier with 15,000 French crystals that formerly graced the Genesee Theatre in Buffalo.

TURN RIGHT ON GOUNDRY STREET. CONTINUE UNDER THE RAILROAD OVERPASS ONTO THE TOWN'S MOST FASHIONABLE STREET.

9. United States Post Office
141 Goundry Street

Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, Oscar Wenderoth, drew up the plans for this two-story post office that was completed in 1914. Wenderoth, who was responsible for many New York post offices, blended classical elements into his Colonial Revival design. The symmetrical building features a colossal central portico splitting a stone balustrade around the roof; the confection is topped by an elegant domed cupola.

10. Kent Place
208 Goundry Street

Alexander Granger Kent left the family farm with just a single year of schooling to enter the grocery business. In 1848 the 26-year old Kent became one of the first lumber dealers in the area, helping launch the town on its journey to becoming

an important lumber center. Kent retired in 1890 to this grand mansion - now much altered - that he had built a year earlier. The house was long thought to have been designed by Stanford White of the legendary architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White that was setting the standard for elegance in the Gilded Age, but that is not certain. Kent died here in 1895 and his family occupied the home until 1931. Once the torch-bearer for the splendid mansions on Goundry Street, the house stood vacant for many years before being divided into nine apartments.

11. Carnegie Art Center
240 Goundry Street

Steel magnate Andrew Carnegie dispensed many of millions of dollars building public libraries - 1,679 in the United States and more than 2,000 worldwide. The community of North Tonawanda received one of the grants and constructed this Classical Revival building in 1904. The one story brick building trimmed in Indiana limestone served as a library for 70 years and has done duty as an arts center since 1976. It stands as one of 277 Carnegie libraries listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

12. DeGraff House
273 Goundry Street

Bank president James DeGraff, scion of the family that would do much to build the community a hospital, built this eclectic Queen Anne-styled brick house in 1884. The first indoor plumbing to show up in North Tonawanda was installed in this house.

TURN LEFT ON PAYNE STREET.

13. Sweeney Cemetery
east side of Payne Street

This small graveyard was the family burial ground started on James Sweeney's farm, probably in the 1820s. The cemetery was founded on February 12, 1868 as the Col. John Sweeney Rural Cemetery Association and many of North Tonawanda's leading citizens rest here. In 1977 the city assumed ownership of the cemetery.

CROSS OVER TO THE WEST SIDE
OF PAYNE STREET.

14. Brauer Park
Payne Street

The greenspace next to city hall is named for John Brauer, a city alderman who donated trees, shrubs and evergreens and supervised their planting in the 1930s. It is now home to memorials to North Tonawandan veterans.

15. City Hall
216 Payne Avenue at Brauer Park

North Tonawanda came into being after a dispute over the use of gravel and this is where that gravel pit was located. This is actually the third home for the government since the incorporation of North Tonawanda as a village on May 8, 1865 and as a city on April 24, 1897. The building with its streamlined Art Deco appearance opened with appropriate fanfare in 1929; the price tag was \$200,000.

TURN LEFT ON
THOMPSON STREET.

16. Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
180 Thompson Street

The manufacture of carrouseles and band organs on the banks of the Niagara River greatly influenced the growth of the amusement park industry. The best-known carrousel maker in the United States was Allan Herschell. A native of Scotland, Herschell came to America in 1870 to construct steam boilers and engines. In 1883 Herschell produced his first steam-driven "riding gallery," an forerunner of the merry-go-round. By 1891 one machine a day was being shipped from western New York to some place in the world. The city of North Tonawanda also produced most of America's band organs. When added to the carrousel these colorful musical instruments made the merry-go-round an irresistible amusement ride.

The Allan Herschell Company manufactured carrouseles and other amusement park rides here for nearly 40 years before moving to Buffalo. The building housed a carving shop where the horses

were hand carved, a paint shop, woodworking shop, upholstery shop, and machine shop. The museum still features one of 71 carrouseles manufactured by Herschell and is open on select days.

TURN LEFT ON OLIVER STREET.

17. Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier
111 Oliver Street

The Niagara Frontier Chapter is one of the oldest chapters of the National Railway Historical Society, chartered on February 1, 1942. The organization's museum is housed in the Erie Railroad's North Tonawanda freight depot, built in 1922 and painstakingly restored to house a unique collection of artifacts, including the group's five pieces of rolling stock.

TURN RIGHT ON SWEENEY STREET.

18. Elks Lodge 860
northeast corner of Main Street and
Sweeney Street

This has been the home of the Elks fraternal organization since 1921. The design of Louis F. Eggert has been tampered with over the years but the exterior remains essentially unchanged.

CONTINUE ALONG SWEENEY
STREET TO RETURN TO THE TOUR
STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Oswego



A Walking Tour of Oswego...

The point where the Oswego River flows into the open waters of Lake Ontario was visited by French explorer Samuel de Champlain in 1615 and was well known to early travelers. The English finally got around to establishing a trading post here in 1722 and a crude fort followed five years later. In 1755 a full contingent of 700 men arrived and constructed two fortifications - Fort Ontario on the east bank of the river and Oswego New Fort on the west side. The English would remain in possession of Oswego until late in George Washington's second term as President when the Jay Treaty went into effect on February 29, 1796.

Building lots and public squares were laid out in 1797 as Oswego became America's first freshwater port. Freight was transferred between rafts from inland waterways and larger lake schooners. The War of 1812 interrupted Oswego's march of progress and Fort Ontario was laid waste by the British but Oswego County was established after the war ended in 1816 and the town once again anticipated a bright future as the largest port on the Great Lakes. Those hopes were temporarily dashed by the construction of the Erie Canal that opened the western lands to Lake Erie and not Lake Ontario. New York's canal-building craze soon linked Oswego with the Erie Canal in 1828 and when Canada opened an easy water route between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario with its Welland Canal in 1840, Oswego was primed for a boom time.

By 1850, Oswego had become the largest American port for Canadian imports and was collecting more customs receipts than all but three ports in the country. The Oswego River and the adjacent boat basin were crowded with canal boats and lake schooners, flouring mills, shipyards and drydocks. The world's largest starch family located here and there was a large iron factory churning out steam shovels and dredges and railway carriage works and repair shops and box factories. Vast quantities of grain and timber and coal and salt moved through the port. A business district of three and four-story warehouses and business blocks developed along West First Street and Bridge Street.

The Oswego streetscape has been altered through the years by fire and urban renewal but a significant handful of buildings remaining from the glory days of the mid-1800s. Our walking tour will visit both sides of the Oswego River and we'll start on a public green that was laid out on the east side in 1797 when the city of Oswego was laid out...

1. Oswego County Courthouse
25 East Oneida Street at East 2nd Street,
west side of Washington Square

Syracuse architect Horatio Nelson White was busy in the mid 19th century designing courthouses around central New York. Flush with receipts from the Oswego Canal, this splendid Renaissance Revival structure was built between 1859 and 1860 for the cost of \$29,390. The two story building rises above a cruciform plan and is constructed of load bearing masonry walls faced with smooth ashlar Onondaga limestone. It features a portico surmounted by a domed cupola. Still in use today, the courthouse was altered in 1891 and again in 1962.

**EXIT WASHINGTON SQUARE
AND THE COURTHOUSE ON 2ND
STREET. TURN RIGHT AND WALK
TOWARDS LAKE ONTARIO.**

2. Oswego City Library
120 East 2nd Street

Born in Utica in 1797, Gerrit Smith spent his early adult years building the vast estate developed by his father, a long-standing partner of America's first tycoon, John Jacob Astor. Smith became a national leader in the cause of abolition and women's suffrage and was an unsuccessful candidate for President of the United States in 1848, 1852 and 1856 for minor parties that he helped fund and create. It is estimated that Smith funded public projects to the tune of millions of dollars and he gave \$25,000 for the construction of this library and another \$5,000 for books. It was built about 1855 and is a two story stucco-covered brick structure in a distinctive castellated style with exterior battlements, tower, turrets, corbels, and arcaded windows. The Oswego Public Library is the oldest remaining public library building in New York State still being used as a library.

**WALK DOWN THE HILL TO
BRIDGE STREET.**

DETOUR: TO SEE THE ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT ON THE OSWEGO RIVER AT FORT ONTARIO, CONTINUE WALKING ON 2ND STREET TO LAKE ONTARIO, ABOUT THREE BLOCKS. IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO GO TO FORT ONTARIO, TURN LEFT TO GO TO STOP #3. IF YOU TAKE THE DETOUR, RETURN HERE AND TURN RIGHT AFTERWARDS TO CONTINUE THE TOUR AT STOP #3.

Detour:
Fort Ontario State Historic Site
1 East 4th Street

A frontier post overlooking Oswego Harbor and Lake Ontario was first fortified by the French in 1755. Tory refugees from the Mohawk Valley fled to Fort Ontario and launched raids back into central New York, including St. Leger's failed invasion, throughout 1777. The Continental Army torched and partially destroyed a vacant Fort Ontario in 1778. The British returned in 1782 and held the post until the Jay Treaty of 1796 finally forced them to leave. The fort was scuttled by the British in the War of 1812 but rebuilt between 1839 and 1844. Major masonry improvements to the forts outer wall were undertaken, but left incomplete when in 1872, Congress cancelled its funding. By 1901, the old fort was abandoned. An adjacent fort was built by the army in the early 1900s and remained active until after World War II. Today's rebuilt Fort Ontario is interpreted as the star-shaped fortress appeared in 1868-69.

**WALK ACROSS THE BRIDGE STREET
BRIDGE. CONTINUE TO WEST 1ST
STREET.**

3. Buckout-Jones Building
**northeast corner of West Bridge Street
and 1st Street**

Abram Buckout, an active abolitionist, owned the west half of this building from 1852 until 1868. It was an active station on the Underground Railroad, the last stop for some before crossing Lake Ontario into Canada. Former slaves Charles Smith and Tudor Grant would eventually set up barbershops in the basement. Spruced up today, the building probably looks better than it did in

the 1800s - look for such architectural features as Italianate window hoods, mansard roof and a corner oriel tower.

WALK BACK TOWARDS THE OSWEGO RIVER ON THE NORTH (LAKE ONTARIO) SIDE OF THE BRIDGE. AT THE RIVER WALK TURN LEFT AND WALK TOWARDS LAKE ONTARIO.

4. Oswego River Walk
131 West Main Street

Oswego River Walk is a multi-functional park that is used by bikers, runners, strollers and fishermen.

5. Market House
Water Street between Market and West Bridge streets

This massive brick and stone public building was constructed as a market in 1835 on plans drawn by Jacob Bonestreet. A section of the basement is believed to have been used as a jail. In 1864 the city sold it to the Oswego and Syracuse Railroad who gave the four-story structure an Italianate face-lift with a bracketed cornice and elaborate cupola. The railroad used the old Market House until the 1940s.

CONTINUE ON THE RIVER WALK TO SENECA STREET.

**6. Walton and Willett Stone Store/
Coleman's**
1 Seneca Street at West 1st Street

This four-story limestone structure with a distinctive stepped gable roof has been a landmark on the banks of the Oswego River for over 180 years. It was built in 1828 and first used as a ship chandlery. In succeeding years it did duty as a newspaper office, customs collector, steamboat ticket and freight office, and warehouse. In 1945, it was purchased for use as a fish market and most recently has been the home to an Irish pub.

TURN LEFT AND WALK A FEW STEPS AWAY FROM THE RIVER UP TO 1ST STREET AND TURN LEFT.

7. *The Palladium Times*
140 West 1st Street

The first issue of the *Palladium* hit the streets in 1819, printing weekly. In 1845 the *Commercial Daily Advertiser*, later shortened to the more punchy *Times*, started up as Oswego's first daily newspaper. The opposing political organs dispensed the news in Oswego from the same block for decades until forming an unlikely union in 1925.

AT BRIDGE STREET, TURN RIGHT.

8. Gordon's Dry Goods
southwest corner of West Bridge Street and 1st Street

This corner commercial building with elaborate brickwork above the second floor and along the roof was constructed in 1881 as a branch of Donald Gordon's Rochester-based dry goods empire. Gordon unexpectedly went bankrupt and the store was gone by 1883 but the building remains over 125 years later.

TURN LEFT ON 2ND STREET.

9. Oswego Theater
138 West 2nd Street

Romanian-born architect John Ebersson built movie palaces all over the world, famous for their atmospheric decor, usually under a sky blue ceiling. Most of his 500 buildings have been destroyed but the Oswego Theater, one of his last projects, completed in 1941, still stands although the original 1,800 seat theater began to be partitioned in the 1970s. The Art Moderne exterior features bands of yellow, red, and dark red brick that create broad horizontal and perpendicular belts. A pair of cast stone, accordion pleated vertical stripes are included on the facade.

AT THE NEXT BLOCK TURN
LEFT INTO CIVIC SQUARE.

10. City Hall

13 West Oneida Street at West 1st Street

Syracuse architect Horatio White tapped the popular French Second Empire style for the grand home of the Oswego city government in 1870 with a multi-hued slate roof and central clocktower. City officials apparently felt that their nearly \$70,000 in construction costs were well spent as City Hall was hailed by the Common Council as “a building of the most substantial character; the materials and workmanship throughout are of the finest quality, and this committee believes that it will endure as an ornament to our city for many years to come, if not for ages.” Indeed, thanks to a multi-million dollar restoration in the 1980s White would still recognize his building were he to be walking with you today.

11. Conway Municipal Building

20 West Oneida Street at West 1st Street

Oswego came a long way fast after the opening of the Oswego Canal in 1828 and nothing exemplified the newly incorporated city’s importance like this federal building that housed a post office, courthouse and Custom House. It was erected in 1858 at the cost of \$120,000. Nathan Sage operated the Custom House for America’s first freshwater port out of his house on West First Street in 1811. Operations moved into a building at West Seneca and Water streets in 1834 and settled in this new Federal Building on October 5, 1858 and stayed until Oswego lost its status as a Collection District in 1913.

TURN RIGHT ON 1ST STREET.

12. Pontiac Terrace Apartments

225 West 1st Street

The illustrious career of George Browne Post was winding down when he came to the shores of Lake Ontario to design the Pontiac Hotel in 1912. On his resume were such important buildings as the New York Cotton Exchange, New York Produce Exchange, New York Stock Exchange and the Wisconsin State Capitol. Trained as an engineer rather than an architect, Post was a driving force in making American buildings ever taller: his eight-story Equitable Life Assurance Society completed in 1870 was the first office building designed to use elevators and for a time in the 1890s his twenty-story New York World building was the tallest in New York City. The client list for his Beaux Arts designs included the Vanderbilt family and Collis P. Huntington of transcontinental railroad fame.

For the Pontiac the 75-year old Post created a four-story, U-shaped structure centered around a 40-foot interior rotunda. The hotel was dressed in stucco and given a Spanish Mission style with a red tile roof and classical accoutrements. In 1982 the glamour of a stay at the Pontiac had dissipated and the building was outfitted for use as apartments for the elderly.

13. Oswego YMCA

265 West First Street

Philadelphia-born architect George Lewis Heins made his mark early in his career with work in New York City on the city’s first subway and the Bronx Zoological Gardens. He was appointed State Architect by Theodore Roosevelt in 1899 and designed all the state buildings erected until his death at the age of 47 in 1907. This castle-like brick armory on a stone base was constructed in 1906. The building is highlighted by a five-story octagonal tower at the northwest corner. In 2004 the old armory was adapted for use by the YMCA.

AT THE END OF THE BLOCK TURN
LEFT AND CROSS THE UTICA
STREET BRIDGE. AT EAST 3RD
STREET TURN LEFT.

14. Richardson-Bates House
135 East Third Street

Max Bennett Richardson inherited the core of this house, constructed in the 1850s, from his father. Richardson was an attorney, real estate broker, and two-term mayor of Oswego who wanted a house to reflect his position in the community and hired renowned Rochester architect Andrew Jackson Warner to design a substantial addition to his existing frame house. Warner delivered a grand vision of a Tuscan villa with a four-story tower. The work was completed in 1871 and the original wooden house was eventually replaced as a brick addition to match Warner's new work. Richardson died in 1903 and the house survives today as a museum; one of the most intact 19th century house museums in existence. Some 95% of the furnishings are original to the Richardson family.

15. Congregation Adath Israel
35 East Oneida Street

The first Jewish congregation, totaling ten, organized informally in Oswego in 1828. The first official Jewish Congregation, Berith Sholem, was founded January 6, 1858 with services held in the homes of members. In 1910 Oswego's Jewish community incorporated the Congregation Adath Israel under the laws of New York State and moved into its current building, constructed by the First Baptist Church, in 1870.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO
THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN
WASHINGTON SQUARE.

Look Up,

Poughkeepsie



A Walking Tour of Poughkeepsie...

The town site of Poughkeepsie - the name derives from an Iroquois word meaning “the reed-covered lodge by the little-water place” referring to a small spring that fed the Hudson River - was settled by the Dutch in 1659, just a few years before the English would seize control of the entire region. Poughkeepsie would emerge as the mid-Hudson Valley’s largest and most influential city on the east bank, growing rapidly and even enjoying a two-year stint as capital of New York after the American Revolution. In addition to the Hudson River the town sat on two other important Colonial transportation routes - the Albany Post Road and the New Hackensack Road.

Lumber and grain milling were the first important industries and the town became a major center for whale rendering early in the 1800s. There were also glass factories, textile mills, ball bearing manufacturers and breweries. After the Civil War Poughkeepsie experienced a period of rapid industrial expansion, with a corresponding increase in population. By 1854 Poughkeepsie’s population grew to 20,000. But the city’s economic triumphs failed to register on the national radar. Instead, as Poughkeepsie boomed, homes and businesses began constructing individual wells and cisterns for sewage disposal. This activity caused groundwater contamination resulting in epidemics of cholera, typhoid fever, smallpox and diphtheria, which claimed hundreds of victims. To the City’s embarrassment Poughkeepsie was heralded in newspapers as “The Sickly City,” even as far west as Chicago. One account called Poughkeepsie, “A fine place to live, with fine schools and churches and railroad accommodations, well governed but oh, how sickly.”

In 1870 a general election to decide the question of whether or not to develop a public water supply resulted in a vote of 544 to 43 in support of the proposal. On this basis a Water Board was formed which sought out an engineer for the project. In 1871 progress moved dramatically forward as Harvey G. Eastman was elected Mayor. Mayor Eastman was credited as the driving force that carried out the public wishes. Through his leadership, gift of persuasion and vision the first successful slow sand filtration plant in America was placed into service July 8, 1872. The success of this project was heralded as epidemics all but disappeared and the plant was copied across the land and to this day Poughkeepsie is recognized as the national leader in filtration.

Our walking tour of today’s “Queen City of the Hudson” will begin at the entrance of Harvey Eastman’s park and a memorial he donated to the city, a water-based memorial naturally...

**1. *Soldiers' Fountain*
entrance to Eastman Park
South Avenue/Market Street and
Montgomery Street**

Unveiled in 1870 to the memory of the soldiers of the Civil War, the ornately figured fountain is an example of folk art in cast iron. I.P Victor Andre designed the 26-foot high monument. It has been said that the square in which it stands preserves more mid-Victorian civic atmosphere than any other civic square in the State.

Harvey Eastman contributed the \$70,000 for its construction. Eastman began his professional career teaching at the Eastman Commercial College in Rochester, which had been founded by his uncle, George Washington Eastman. In December 1855, he founded a school of his own in Oswego and then headed west to St. Louis. His anti-slavery leanings forced him to return east to Poughkeepsie where his Eastman Business College became one of the largest commercial schools in the United States. The school made him rich, and he became one of the leading citizens of Poughkeepsie, serving as mayor from 1871-1874 and again from 1877 until his death. His tenure as mayor is most notable in his ensuring the construction of a water filtration plant that eliminated Poughkeepsie's reputation as "The Sickly City."

WALK NORTH ON MARKET STREET,
AWAY FROM EASTMAN PARK,
TOWARDS THE CENTER OF TOWN.

**2. *Adriance Memorial Library*
93 Market Street**

The French Renaissance building of white marble was constructed as the city's library in 1898. The single-story Tennessee marble domed building features a parapeted roof, projecting cornice with modillions, plain frieze and central pavilion with four Corinthian columns. Decorative panels on the facade feature torch and swag motifs.

The Adriance family, manufacturers and financiers, donated \$100,000 for its construction as a memorial to their parents. John Adriance had begun his long business career in Poughkeepsie as a silversmith's apprentice at the age of 14 in 1809. Adriance's fortune was built on his development

of the buckeye plow that helped tame American soils.

Books were lent in Poughkeepsie as far back as 1839 and the library led a peripatetic existence around town until the establishment of this permanent home. The cannon on the lawn was carried on the ironclad *USS Monitor* that battled the *CSS Virginia* to a draw in the world's first battle of metal-armored warships during the Civil War. It was built through the efforts of John F. Winslow and John A. Griswold and with money furnished by them. The cannon was donated by Winslow's daughter, Mary C.W. Blake in 1926.

**3. *Market Street Row*
west side of Market Street opposite
Noxon Street**

Market is the city's oldest street, running parallel to the Hudson River since 1709 when a royal decree made it part of the King's Highway. Urban renewal and highway building in the 1970s swept away many of the surrounding homes but this little group dodged the wrecking ball. As such, the Mott-Van Kleeck House at the center of the trio is the oldest frame house in Poughkeepsie, built around 1780. The neighboring houses came along a century later, ornate Victorian structures with towers and dynamic massing. A tower was added to the Mott-Van Kleeck House in lock-step with its neighbors. Targeted by preservationists, the three structures have been redeveloped into office space.

**4. *Hasbrouck House*
75 Market Street**

Frederick Clarke Withers was an successful English architect in America, especially renowned for his Gothic Revival church designs. But for this red brick house built in 1885 for Frank Hasbrouck, a local judge and historian, Withers dipped into his Romanesque Revival playbook. He created the city's most distinguished building in that popular Victorian-era style accessed via a recessed front porch with dual round-headed arches divided by a spiral column with molded floral design and Corinthian capital. On the upper stories, there are brownstone windowsills and courses around the house. Other ornaments include an oriel window on the sec-

ond story, pentagonal dormer on the third, and a parapet roofline. The house was shepherded into the 21st century by the United Way.

5. Not Amrita Club
southeast corner of Church and
Market streets

Poughkeepsie's most prestigious private club organized in 1873, meeting in rented rooms around the city until 1912 when it sunk \$100,000 into this Colonial Revival clubhouse. Constructed of brick, the three-story structure is trimmed in marble. The club's importance waned in the latter decades of the 20th century and disbanded in the 1980s. The building reverted to the city and endured a long spell of vacancy and has yet to regain useful footing.

6. New York State Armory
northeast corner of Church and
Market streets

New York State is dotted with 19th-century armories designed by Isaac G. Perry of Binghamton, the state architect at the time. This eclectic Romanesque-flavored design from 1891 is one of his best. Crafted with red brick and rusticated sandstone, the building is still in use as an armory, as home to the Company A, 101st Signal Battalion of the New York Army National Guard.

7. Young Men's Christian Association
58 Market Street

After meeting for years in more pedestrian digs as the Young Men's Christian Union, the YMCA moved into this spectacular three-story Renaissance Revival home in 1908. William Wallace Smith of cough drop brothers fame covered the \$200,000 in construction costs. Smith also spent \$65,000 for an office building next door, paid to cancel the mortgage on the previous building and wrote a check for \$10,000 for pocket change. The New York City firm of Jackson & Rosencrans drew up the highly decorative plans that included a molded cornice, corner quoins and a rooftop balustrade with an elaborate cartouche. The YMCA has a glazed terra-cotta front facade, the only building in Poughkeepsie using that material.

8. Farmer's and Manufacturer's Bank
43 Market Street at Cannon Street

The three-bay, two-and-a-half story brick building was opened to the public in 1835, the year after it was built. It stands as one of only two non-residential Greek Revival structures in downtown Poughkeepsie. Signatures of the then-popular style include the wide frieze and pilasters on the first story, eyebrow windows, balustrade and cupola. The brick is complemented by stone trim, particularly around the windows. First-floor ornamentation includes a stone entablature with dentil molding and four laurel wreaths. Save for a front porch that was removed in 1892, the building's exterior has remained the same for over 175 years. The same could not be said for the bank; after becoming Empire National Bank it relocated.

9. Bardavon 1869 Opera House
35 Market Street

The Bardavon stands as the oldest continuously operating theater in New York State. The stage was opened as the Collingwood Opera House by its owner and operator James Collingwood in 1869. Prominent Poughkeepsie architect J.A. Wood provided the theater with a unique two-stage dome. It became the Bardavon in 1923 after being outfitted for the golden age of film and continued as a movie palace until 1975. The venerable exhibit house then faced the wrecking ball but its destiny as a parking lot led concerned citizens to save the theater and get it named to the National Register of Historic Places on August 20, 1977 — and rechristened as The Bardavon 1869 Opera House.

TURN LEFT ON EAST
CHURCH STREET.

10. Poughkeepsie Savings Bank
21-23 Market Street

This was the third home for the bank that was chartered as the city's first in 1831. The plans were drawn up in 1911 by bank architects Louis Mowbray and Justin Uffinger. They delivered a Classical Revival building, with slightly trapezoidal walls reflecting the constraints of the site. Its front facade, made of Pennsylvania marble

on a granite base, uses two Ionic order columns flanked by Doric pilasters. The deeply recessed entryway and vestibule is done in cast bronze and ornamental glass.

11. Smith Brothers Restaurant 13-15 Market Street

Serendipity named them Trade and Mark, and their images have been commercially reproduced more times than any others. They were so successful they spawned a spate of cheap imitators such as the “Schmitt Brothers” and the “Smythe Sisters.” They are the Smith Brothers.

James Smith was a Scot who emigrated to Quebec, Canada for fifteen years before migrating to Poughkeepsie, where he opened a restaurant on this site in 1847. He sold candy as a sideline, with his oldest son William hawking the confections so successfully he was known around town as “Candy Boy.” Legend has it that one day a peddler stopped in the restaurant, and not having the money for a meal, swapped a cough drop recipe for some food.

Whatever the origins, by 1852 James Smith & Sons Compound of Wild Cherry Cough Candy was on the market “for the Cure of Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, Sore Throats, Whooping Cough, and Asthma.” The claims were later toned down, but if there was anyplace that needed such a remedy, it was the bitter, windswept Hudson Valley.

James Smith died in 1866 and the Smith brothers, William and Andrew, inherited the business. The next generation concentrated more on the cough drops than the restaurant. They converted a barn on the edge of town into the the first cough drop factory, and sold their Smith Brothers cough medicine in glass countertop jars.

To discourage counterfeiters, the brothers molded the initials “SB” on each drop - and began advertising the fact. To further thwart imitators they developed a trademark based on their own bearded visages. To announce the government protection they printed the word “TRADE-MARK” on the label where it was divided: the “TRADE” by chance appearing under William’s picture and the “MARK” resting under Andrew. The labels were pasted on the glass jars.

In 1877 the Smiths produced one of the first “factory-filled” consumer products by selling their black licorice and cherry cough drops in small packages - each adorned by Trade and Mark. In their lifetime, William and Andrew Smith saw production of their cough drops soar from five pounds a day in the back of the restaurant here to five tons daily. Andrew died in 1895 and William in 1913. The business would remain in family hands until 1963, but the only Smiths anyone ever knew were Trade and Mark. The last Smith Brothers Cough Drop manufactured in Poughkeepsie was made in 1972.

12. Dutchess County Courthouse 10 Market Street at Main Street

This site has been occupied by a county courthouse for nearly 300 years; this is the third to stand here and each had about a 100-year run. The original was constructed in 1720 and served until it was destroyed by fire in 1806. During a brief moment of glory that building hosted New York’s debate on ratifying the United States Constitution when Poughkeepsie served as the state capital in 1788. Its replacement wore out in 1903 and was replaced with the current structure that was designed by local architect William J. Beardsley and carried a \$500,000 price tag. Beardsley gave the four-story building a Colonial Revival look with Palladian windows in the central bays and stone corner quoins and keystones over the windows. Because of a requirement in the original deed for the land, one of the original 1720 courthouse’s jail cells must remain in the basement of this or any subsequent court building.

13. Church Corner 1 Main Street on southeast corner of Market Street

For nearly two hundred years this prominent downtown corner was the site of a cemetery for the original church cemetery, hence its name. The buildings that rose here in the 19th century were architecturally non-descript. The stylish Art Deco facade seen today dates to the 1930s.

TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET.

14. Poughkeepsie Trust Company
236 Main Street

Local architect Percival Lloyd left nary a surface undecorated for this Beaux Arts confection for the Poughkeepsie Trust Company in 1906. The bank had started on this site five years before and was successful enough to sink \$100,000 into this ornately carved stone landmark. The ground level is totally quoined and sports an intricate wrought-iron gate on the main door and decorative Doric columns. On the sides, a red-and-yellow brick diamond pattern runs from front to rear at the fifth story. At six stories, it laid claim to being the Hudson Valley's first skyscraper and boasted one of the city's first elevators. The county took over after the bank departed and it now houses the district attorney's office.

15. Village Hall and Market
228 Main Street

This two-story, late Federal-style brick building was constructed in 1831 at the cost of \$20,000 to serve as both village hall and a public market. Four bays wide and seven bays deep, the building is constructed on an ashlar base and sports a brownstone belt course between the two floors. A squat wooden belltower is perched on the roof.

CROSS WASHINGTON STREET.
TURN RIGHT ON VASSAR STREET.

16. Cunneen Hackett Cultural Center
9 & 12 Vassar Street

Matthew Vassar was born in England in 1792 but sailed for New York with his family four years later and settled on a farm outside Poughkeepsie. Vassar took over operations of the small family brewery when he was 18 and gradually increased capacity over the years. Vassar was one of the first brewers with national aspirations and he amassed a sizable fortune in the process. His wealth trickled down through the community, most notably in the founding of one of America's leading women's colleges in 1861.

These two landmark Italianate buildings were developed by Vassar's nephews, John Guy Vassar and Matthew Vassar Jr. The rambling structure at #9 was used as a home for aged men and the

ornate villa at #12 performed as a museum and library, now a theater. The buildings were constructed near the site of the family's landmark brewery.

17. Second Baptist Church
36 Vassar Street at Mill Street

This Greek Revival wooden building fronted by a quartet of fluted Doric columns has served many masters since its construction in the 1830s. The first was a splinter group from the Presbyterian Church that bought it from Matthew Vassar's family. By 1842 the First Congregational Church was meeting here. Later it was used by the local Masons and in the 1860s it was doing duty as a synagogue for the Congregated Brethren of Israel. The church design is based on a pattern in an 1833 builder's guide; the entablature is framed by a boxed cornice, and a small round window with segmented frame is at its center.

TURN RIGHT ON MILL STREET.

18. The Italian Center
227 Mill Street

Seeking a way to preserve and promote their Italian culture, two organizations of immigrants were formed In 1889, the "Stella D' Italia (Star of Italy) and "The Prince of Piedmont." The two societies merged to become "Societa Progressiva" (Progressive Society) in 1918. This picturesque Stick Style brick house was acquired as a clubhouse in 1924.

AT THE CORNER TURN LEFT ON
WASHINGTON STREET. TURN
RIGHT ON MANSION STREET.

19. United States Post Office
**55 Mansion Street at head of
Market Street**

You might think that between the Great Depression and World War II that Franklin Roosevelt wouldn't have time for much else. Not so. Eric Kebbon, the government architect in charge of designing a new Poughkeepsie post office, discovered that when he submitted plans for a

typical Greek Revival structure but found his sketches rejected. Seems Franklin Roosevelt had a vision for Dutchess County and that vision involved country stone and he was going to battle for it to become a reality. President Roosevelt explained why he fought so hard for the architecture of the new buildings: “We are seeking to follow the type of architecture which is good in the sense that it does not of necessity follow the whims of the moment but seeks an artistry that ought to be good, as far as we can tell, for all time to come. And we are trying to adapt the design to the historical background of the locality and to use, insofar as possible, the materials which are indigenous to the locality itself. Hence, fieldstone for Dutchess County. Hence the efforts during the past few years in Federal buildings in the Hudson River Valley to use fieldstone and to copy the early Dutch architecture which was so essentially sound besides being very attractive to the eye.” Roosevelt laid the cornerstone himself at a dedication ceremony during celebrations of the 250th anniversary of Poughkeepsie’s settlement on October 13, 1937. Five hundred workers would labor over the next two years building the 63,000-square foot post office. The final building included a lobby with murals painted by WPA artists depicting six scenes in local and state history and the Smithsonian Institution would choose it as one of ten New York post offices among the five hundred most beautiful in the country.

TURN RIGHT ON MARKET STREET.

**20. *Poughkeepsie Journal*
85 Civic Center Plaza at Market Street**

With editions hitting the Poughkeepsie streets in 1785, the *Journal* stakes its claim as the oldest newspaper in New York and one of the oldest in America. It was a weekly then and did not go daily until 1860. Although it looks as if the publication may well have spent all its 225 years in this striking fieldstone building, the *Journal* built this headquarters along the guidelines of Franklin Roosevelt’s post office across the street.

**21. First Baptist Church
260 Mill Street at Market Street**

Poughkeepsie go-to architect James S. Post designed this red brick Gothic Revival church with a dollop of Ruskinian multi-chromatic decoration in 1875.

**22. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza at Main
and Market streets**

This 1970s project was developed as an anchor for the Main Mall that operated as an outdoor pedestrian shopping plaza along Main Street. Automobile traffic as reintroduced in 2001. The Civic Center and adjacent Grand Hotel have survived the failed experiment though. The complex includes a 3,050-seat concert hall, an ice arena and an exhibition space.

TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET.

**23. Elting Building
292 Main Street at Liberty Street**

Roelof Elting, who came from Holland about the year 1660, was the patriarch for this venerable Hudson Valley family. The Elting building, with its unique mini-tower, was constructed in 1892 for Elting’s clothing store.

**24. Luckey, Platt & Company
Department Store
southwest corner of Main and
Academy streets**

Charles Luckey came from Ithaca and found work as a clerk in a small dry goods store operated by Isaac Dribble and Robert Slee. In 1866, at the age of 34, he was made a partner in the concern. Elsewhere in town, in 1863, Edmund Platt was receiving a \$100,000 gift from his father for his 20th birthday. With this money, he bought into the retail business and in 1872 Charles Luckey and Edmund Platt co-founded Luckey, Platt and Co., destined to become one of the most successful department stores in the country. The emporium was an innovator in establishing a set price policy, telephone customer service, and doing business only in cash.

This massive, gray, five-story Classical Revival structure was designed by Percival Lloyd and opened in 1923. The roofline features a parapet roof with a molded cornice below dancing with small lion's heads. The frieze contains anthemion brackets, egg-and-dart and dentil moldings. Further down the facade are found pilasters with foliated capitals. Immediately adjacent on either street are older, more Italianate buildings which housed the store's operations before the construction of the main building. Luckey, Platt & Company was shuttered in the face of competition from suburban malls in 1981 and the grand dame of retailing survived a long stretch of vacancy to be redeveloped for office space.

TURN RIGHT ON
ACADEMY STREET.

25. Lady Washington Firehouse
20 Academy Street

The Lady Washington Hose Company was created in 1863 when the city bought new fire engines for the Niagara and Cataract companies. The firehouse was built in 1908, designed in eclectic style by local architect Percival M. Lloyd. The yellow brick building sports a corbelled soffit holding a Japanese-style tiled roof and a central bay window over the garage. A castellated side tower invokes a Gothic feel. After its days as a firehouse came to an end it performed duty as a warehouse before landing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

26. Christ Episcopal Church
**20 Carroll Street at Montgomery
and Academy streets**

The red sandstone tower of Christ Church, designed by William Appleton Potter, is one of the best examples of 19th Century English Gothic architecture along the Hudson River. The church was erected in 1888 and the tower was added a year later. The Tudor rectory was built in 1903. This is the third meetinghouse for the congregation that organized in 1766.

TURN RIGHT ON MONTGOMERY
STREET TO RETURN TO THE TOUR
STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Rochester



A Walking Tour of Rochester...

Ebenezer “Indian” Allen was the first settler in this area. He had obtained a grant of 100 acres at a gaping cataract on the Genesee River with the provision that he build a mill. Allen built his mill in 1789 but nobody was in a hurry to make use of it, let alone settle nearby. No one wanted to deal with the “Genesee Fever” that was almost certain to come due to the mosquitoes infesting the dismal swamp around the falls. The rattlesnakes didn’t help either. Allen had moved on by 1792.

Title for the land subsequently passed through several owners, none who did anything to develop it. Finally the property came into the hands of three Maryland men and in 1811 one of them, Colonel Nathaniel Rochester, began offering lots for sale. This time a few settlers trickled in; there was a tavern by 1815, a newspaper in 1816 and the next year the village was incorporated as Rochesterville. It was only one of eight similar settlements scattered along the final eight miles of the Genesee River’s run to Lake Ontario, and far from the most promising. Carthage had built a great bridge across the river in 1819 that drew travelers and trade but after 15 months it buckled and collapsed. And about the same time the Erie Canal was routed through Rochester, along today’s Broad Street, and that dealt a death blow to its rivals. Rochester was named the county seat of the new Monroe County in 1821, soon absorbed the surrounding communities and was off and running.

The awesome power of the Upper Falls of the Genesee had begun to be harnessed as well, most efficiently by the Brown Brothers, and Rochester was a genuine boomtown. The local mills were churning out flour in quantities that had never been seen before. Local millers were grinding upwards of 25,000 bushels of wheat daily. The first ten days the Erie Canal was open east to the Hudson, 40,000 barrels of flour floated down to Albany and New York City from the new Flour City. By 1838 Rochester was the largest flour-producing city in the world. About that time a new, less obvious, industry was sprouting in town - the seed and nursery business. It would become so prominent that Rochester was being called the Flower City even before the bulk of the flour-milling business was departing for the wheat fields of the midwest. An added benefit of the nursery business was the early development of the city parks.

With the foundation laid by flour and flowers, Rochester became one of America’s great industrial cities. George Eastman’s Kodak film and cameras and John Jacob Bausch and Henry Lomb’s optical products were foremost among Rochester goods but there were shoes and machine tools and horseless carriages and mail chutes as well. The population would peak in 1950 with more than 330,000 but our walking tour will begin near the site of Ebenezer Allen’s first mill when nobody wanted to live here, on the site where Hamlet Scramton built the first house in the village, on the spot that was for more than 100 years the center of Rochester life...

1. Wilder Building
1 East Main Street at Exchange Boulevard

Henry Hobson Richardson was the most celebrated American architect of the second half of the 19th century and his influences showed up on this office building, built for Samuel Wilder, Vice President of the Mechanics Bank. The rough-faced stonework, the blending of multiple materials such as pressed brickwork and terracotta, the broad arches and decorative turrets are all elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Completed in 1888, the 11-story Wilder building was a pre-cursor of the skyscrapers that were looming on the horizon and for a short time was the tallest building in Rochester, topping the Powers Building across the street. The powers that be at the Powers Building hastily added a tower to take the title back. Local architects Andrew Jackson Warner and William Brockett helmed the project and added one of America's first mail chutes invented by contributing architect J.G. Cutler who went on to market the idea successfully with his Cutler Mail Chute Co.

FROM THE INTERSECTION OF
STATE STREET/EXCHANGE
BOULEVARD AND MAIN STREET,
KNOWN AS THE FOUR CORNERS,
WALK A HALF-BLOCK TO THE EAST
ON MAIN STREET, TOWARDS THE
GENESEE RIVER.

2. Talman Building
25 East Main Street

The original building on this site was a stone structure from the 1820s that bordered the Childs Basin, a large turning basin on the Erie Canal. The back wall of the current building is cut stone two feet thick and likely the back wall from that original building. Many tenants have come and gone in nearly 200 years of operation here but the most famous was escaped slave and abolition leader Frederick Douglass who published his newspaper, the *North Star*, from the Talman Building from 1847 through 1863. Douglass lived in Rochester until 1872 when he moved to Washington, D.C. after his house on South Avenue burned down. Arson was suspected.

3. Reynolds Arcade
16 East Main Street

Abelard Reynolds arrived in Rochester from Red Hook around 1812. In 1828 he built the city's first significant commercial building that became a popular gathering place for business and community leaders. Reynolds was appointed the town's first postmaster and operated out of his Reynolds Arcade. The first library was here as well and in 1856 the Western Union Company organized in the Arcade. Reynolds Arcade was replaced and updated in 1932 with this sleek 11-story Art Deco tower designed by the local firm of Gordon and Kaelber. It was faced with Indiana limestone and the stylish decorations emphasize the verticality of the project.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO THE
FOUR CORNERS AND CONTINUE
WALKING WEST ON MAIN STREET,
AWAY FROM THE RIVER.

4. Powers Building
**16 West Main Street at northwest
corner of State Street**

When Daniel Powers passed at the age of 79 in 1897 his name was affixed to the tallest building in Rochester. It was not serendipity. Powers began constructing his dream building in 1865. When it was completed \$392,000 later the builders had used six million pounds of iron and nine million bricks. The building utilized steel framing with a cast iron and ornamental stone façade, a revolutionary method of construction that created a fireproof building. The five-story Powers Building was the first in upstate New York to have a passenger elevator (then called a vertical railroad), gas illumination and marble floors. A French Second Empire mansard roof covered the entire block-sized building. Powers opened the largest private art gallery in the country on the fifth floor with a collection of 1,000 pieces assembled from repeated trips to Europe. Outside, Powers would not broach any challengers to his "title" of Rochester's tallest building. Twice he responded to higher neighboring buildings by adding entire floors, not particularly concerned about matching the fenestration as he went. Fi-

nally, in 1888, he was forced to cap his building with a four-story observation tower that carried him to his final days with the tallest building in town.

5. City Place
50 West Main Street

Thomas Henry McInnerney did not spend much time in Rochester but this building stands as his legacy. Born in Iowa, he studied pharmacy at the University of Illinois and ran a drugstore in Chicago during the World's Fair of 1893. He migrated to New York City and became general manager of the late Siegel, Cooper & Co., a large department store. In 1907 he emerged as part owner of the Duffy-McInnerney Department Store headquartered in this corner Neoclassical building with its distinctive terra-cotta exterior - "the largest retail store in New York State outside of New York City." McInnerney dissolved the partnership after five years, returned to Chicago and got in the ice cream game. He parlayed his profits there into the National Dairy Products Corporation that dominated America's cheese and dairy industry for decades.

TURN LEFT ON FITZHUGH STREET.

6. The Academy Building
13 South Fitzhugh Street

The prolific architect Andrew Jackson Warner turned to the Victorian Gothic style in 1872 to create the city high school; it was the fourth school building on this site which was deeded to the School District in 1831. It was the only high school in Rochester for 30 years and spent the bulk of its life as offices for the Board of Education. In the 1980s the old school was converted to office space.

7. St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene
Episcopal Church
17 South Fitzhugh Street

This is the oldest surviving public building in Rochester, built hard by the Erie Canal in 1824. New York architect Josiah R. Brady gave the church some of the earliest Gothic Revival elements seen anywhere in the United States, let

alone the western frontier lands of upstate New York. These include two reversed-curve pointed windows and pinnacles on the central tower.

TURN LEFT ON BROAD STREET
AND WALK TOWARDS THE
GENESEE RIVER.

8. Irving Place
30 West Broad Street at Fitzhugh Street

In most American towns when the old, ornate 19th century City Hall got old in the tooth and too expensive to maintain it was either restored as a public building, often a museum, or given a date with the wrecking ball. Here, this five-story building of Lockport Greystone from 1873 was redeveloped as private office space after a run of public service until 1977. The three-ton bell in its tower dates to 1851 and once hung in the second County Court House dome.

9. Democrat and Chronicle Building
55 Exchange Boulevard at Broad Street

Frank Gannett bought his first newspaper in 1906 when he acquired a half-interest in the *Elmira Gazette*. In 1918 he came to Rochester and eventually purchased the *Democrat and Chronicle* in 1928, a paper that traces its roots to 1833 when it was called *The Balance*. At that time he built this sleek Art Deco plant for the paper that became the flagship of an empire that culminated in *USA Today* in the 1980s.

10. Times Square Building
45 Exchange Boulevard at Broad Street

With great anticipation the Genesee Valley Trust Company laid the cornerstone for its new headquarters on October 29, 1929. Later that day came the news of the stock market crash that sent the country spiraling into the Great Depression. Nonetheless, the 260-foot Art Deco tower designed by Voorhees, Gmelin, and Walker was completed within the year. Look up to see the most distinctive feature of Rochester's skyline - four aluminum wings 42 feet high, each weighing 12,000 pounds. The "Wings of Progress" were suggested to creator Ralph T. Walker after finding four seashells on the beach that spoke to him

as the “sense of flight” he incorporated into his building.

**11. Blue Cross Arena
1 War Memorial Square; Broad Street
and Exchange Boulevard**

Travelers on the Erie Canal after 1880 recognized this site as the Kimbal Tobacco Factory, immediately identified by a 21-foot statue of the Roman God of Commerce, *Mercury*, that was placed above the brick building by William Kimbal’s wife who disliked the plant’s dirty smokestack. In the 1920s George Eastman purchased the property and willed it to the University of Rochester for “municipal purposes.” After World War II that took the form of a Civic Center when the tobacco plant was demolished in 1951. The Rochester Community War Memorial opened in 1955 and a \$41 million renovation came along in the 1990s. And that statue of *Mercury*? It found a home across the street.

**12. Aqueduct Park
Genesee River between Main Street
Bridge and Broad Street Bridge**

On the west bank is land that was developed privately for public use and a cluster of old brick industrial buildings that have been adapted for use as modern office space, one of which is surmounted by the Kimbal’s statue of *Mercury*.

WALK OUT ONTO THE BROAD STREET BRIDGE AT THE GENESEE RIVER WHERE YOU CAN GET A BETTER LOOK AT THE BUILDINGS YOU HAVE JUST WALKED PAST.

13. Broad Street Bridge

To get the Erie Canal across the Genesee River required an aqueduct and the conduit that was built in 1840, replacing an earlier structure, was one of the engineering wonders of its time. Constructed of hand-cut Onondaga Limestone the water conduit featured squat, broad arches that allowed the aqueduct to stand up against ice flows and high spring waters and became a model for similar bridges. The aqueduct was abandoned

in 1918 when the modern Erie Barge Canal was constructed and the Rochester subway used the canal bed from 1929 until 1956. The Broad Street roadway was constructed on top of the smaller arches built over the aqueduct in the 1920s but the original seven historic arches still support the entire structure.

LOOK DOWNSTREAM TO...

14. Main Street Bridge

You are looking at the fourth bridge to serve Rochester’s main crossing of the Genesee River. The first wooden structure to span the waters was completed in 1812 and this limestone bridge came into use in 1857. For more than a century, until the 1960s, the bridge was lined with commercial buildings, just like any downtown street, and blocked any views of the river.

ON THE OTHER SIDE, UPSTREAM TO THE SOUTH ON THE EAST BANK (YOUR LEFT) IS...

**15. Rundel Memorial Library
115 South Avenue**

Morton Rundel was an art dealer who was an early investor in his cousin George Eastman’s company. That Kodak stock produced enough income that when he died in 1911 his left the city \$400,000 to build a combination library and art gallery. The city was slow to act and the Rundel family initiated a court battle that delayed construction until 1934. The final building, a monumental Beaux Arts shell with limestone Art Deco detailing was constructed directly on top of the Johnson and Seymour Millrace. Cobbled together in 1817, the race produced energy from the Genesee River for local flour mills; water can still be seen flowing out of the spillway beneath the library.

CROSS THE RIVER AND TURN LEFT ON SOUTH STREET THAT BECOMES ST. PAUL STREET. AFTER ONE BLOCK TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET, WALKING AWAY FROM THE RIVER.

16. Granite Building
124 East Main Street

This was the city's first skeletal steel skyscraper and one of its earliest and best examples of the Beaux Arts style of architecture. The granite and cream-colored brick exterior is enlivened by Corinthian columns, arcaded windows and terra-cotta decorations. It was designed by J. Foster Warner in 1893 for Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Company and served as their flagship department store. In 1904 a fire, often called the worst to strike Rochester, engulfed the entire block and when the store moved to the Sibley Building. The Granite Building was rebuilt for office and commercial use and painstakingly restored in the 1980s.

17. Chase Tower
219 East Main Street

This 392-foot tower was constructed as a "tube in tube" design in 1973 for the Lincoln Rochester Trust Company. Twenty Four "non-functioning" external columns are hollow and carry the utilities throughout the building resulting in a column-free interior. The lower floors of the Chase Tower curve outward and the building is distinguished by white vertical fins on all four sides. The fins were originally made with marble panel coverings but by the 1980s these began to warp and loosen, some falling to the sidewalks below. These were replaced with painted aluminum panels.

18. Sibley Centre
228 East Main Street

Three ambitious young men, veterans of the Boston retail wars, struck out on their own in 1868. Rufus Sibley, Alexander Lindsay, and John Curr investigated several potential locales and settled on Rochester to launch their dream dry goods emporium. After their home in the Granite Building was consumed by fire in 1905 the store moved here, into a handsome rendition of the sleek new Chicago School of architecture, on plans drawn by J. Foster Warner. Only the clock tower betrays any ornamental detail. In 1911 the building was stretched to Franklin Street and six more stories came on board in 1926 to render Sibley's as the largest office building in the city.

It was also the largest department store between New York City and Chicago. Sibley's would close in 1989 and the building would become the downtown campus of Monroe Community College.

19. Liberty Pole
intersection of East Avenue, East Main Street, and Franklin Street

Liberty poles have a long tradition in America since the first one was raised in Manhattan in 1766 to celebrate the repeal of the hated Stamp Act; the first one appeared in Rochester here in 1846. It stood 118 feet tall with a large brass ball on top, a patriotic symbol. A fierce March storm in 1859 crippled the pole badly enough that it was hauled down. Two years later a replacement was erected and it lasted until 1889 when a big Christmas blow toppled Liberty Pole #2. The current Liberty Pole is built of steel and designed by local architect James H. Johnson in 1965.

20. Sibley Triangle Building
20-30 East Avenue at Franklin and Main streets

J. Foster Warner, the son of prolific Rochester architect Andrew Jackson Warner, designed this five story, flat-iron shaped commercial building in 1897 for Hiram Watson Sibley, the son of Hiram Sibley, the founder of the Western Union Telegraph Company. The Italian Renaissance structure is trimmed with Indiana limestone and marble on the first two stories.

TURN LEFT ON FRANKLIN STREET.

21. Rochester Savings Bank
40 Franklin Street

This was one of the last projects to come out of the legendary New York City architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White that worked in tandem with J. Foster Warner of Rochester. They delivered a Byzantine-flavored vault for the Rochester Savings Bank in 1929 that became renowned for its its sumptuous interior of glass wall mosaics, marble pavement and richly appointed woods. The building's banking room interior features work by famous American muralist Ezra Winter.

While painting one of his murals, Winter took a step back, forgetting the extreme height at which he was at, and fell. He suffered from a broken and compacted tailbone. After this he was unable to paint because of an unsteady hand and pain because of the accident. Winter killed himself in 1949 with a shotgun near his Connecticut studio at the age of 63.

22. St. Joseph's Church
108 Franklin Street

In the 1970s when century-old St. Joseph's Church was gutted by fire and the congregation left, the Western New York Landmark Society stepped in to save the remaining bell tower structure. But rather than rebuild the church it was decided to turn the roofless sanctuary with its soaring clock tower into a park.

TURN LEFT ON ANDREWS STREET.

23. Salmon-Nusbaum Building
148 N Clinton Street at Andrews Street

This corner brick building appears to have stepped out of the 1870s virtually unchanged. The slate mansard roof indicative of the French Second Empire style is intact, as is the cast-iron storefront. Although it has been stripped of most of its neighbors the Salmon-Nusbaum Building stands as a reminder to when this block was championed as one of Rochester's finest business districts.

TURN LEFT ON CLINTON STREET.
TURN RIGHT ON DIVISION STREET
AND WALK ONE BLOCK TO
ST. PAUL STREET, HEADING
TOWARDS THE RIVER. TURN
RIGHT AT ST. PAUL STREET.

24. Edwards Building
26-34 St. Paul Street

E.W. Edwards & Sons got their start in retailing in Syracuse and eventually expanded with large store in Rochester and Buffalo. This seven-story shopping palace was built in 1912 and is gloriously clad in white terra-cotta and features

neatly ordered Chicago style windows.

25. Cox Building
36-48 St. Paul Street

Patrick Cox made his money manufacturing shoes and built this splendid seven story brick and brownstone structure in 1888. It demonstrates superb Romanesque style detailing with parades of arched windows marching across the upper floors.

26. The College at Brockport Metro Centre
55 St. Paul Street

This was the Chamber of Commerce Building in 1916 when it was donated to the City by George Eastman. Rochester's go-to architect of the early 20th century, Claude Bragdon, created a compact Neoclassical building with a limestone facade highlighted by a wrought iron balcony.

27. H.H. Warner Building
72-82 St. Paul Street

Hulbert Harrington Warner came to Rochester from Syracuse at the age of 28 in 1870 and made his first million dollars peddling fire- and burglar-proof safes. Warner contracted a serious case of Bright's disease, a failing of the kidneys. Lingered near death, he used a vegetable-based concoction from townsman Charles Craig. Warner indeed recovered, bought Craig's formula and entered the patent medicine business with Warner's Safe Kidney & Liver Cure in 1879. He advertised an entire line of "Safe Cures" aggressively and sold the potions in bottles that featured an embossed safe on the front.

In 1884 Warner opened his new headquarters in this spectacular building, emblazoned with his signature "W" logo in the corners. The elaborately decorated St. Paul elevation overwhelmed passersby with Gothic and Romanesque details in cast iron and Berea stone. The first floor contained all of the Warner offices and the Warner's Safe Cure shipping department. On the second floor, the advertising and publishing departments were located. Warner's mailing department, which distributed millions of pieces of promotional material each year, was located on the third floor. The fourth and fifth floors were where the

bottling and laboratory were located. Warner was said to be churning out 7,000 gallons of Safe Cure per day to be distributed through his offices around the world.

Although patent medicines would fall from favor, Warner's Rochester offices would remain in operation until 1944. H.H. Warner would be long gone, however. He sold his company in 1889 and after an unbroken string of disastrous investments was forced to declare bankruptcy in 1893. He lived out the final 30 years of his life dabbling in business but never again captured the lightning he found in his bottles of Safe Cure.

TURN RIGHT ON PLEASANT STREET AND WALK A FEW STEPS UP ON YOUR LEFT TO VIEW...

28. Our Lady of Victory
210 Pleasant Street

The first practicing Catholics in Rochester were French-speaking, with services held as early as 1840. In 1868 a new French church, Our Lady of Victory, was erected on Pleasant Street in a variation of the French Renaissance style.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON PLEASANT STREET TO ST. PAUL STREET AND TURN RIGHT. AT ANDREWS STREET, TURN LEFT. TURN RIGHT ON NORTH WATER STREET BEFORE YOU REACH THE RIVER.

29. Ellis Building
175 North Water Street

Rochester-born Harvey Ellis has come to be recognized as one of the most innovative architects working in America around the turn of the 20th century yet he not only did not seek the spotlight, he actively dodged it using false names, false addresses and a steadfast refusal to take credit for his much-admired buildings. He worked in the shop of the influential Henry Hobson Richardson before striking out on his own and spent scant time in his hometown before winding up in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. His legacy is this golden-bricked building from the 1880s,

propped up by beefy pillars and elongated arched windows beneath a denticulated metal cornice.

CONTINUE A FEW STEPS TO THE END OF WATER STREET AND TURN RIGHT. WALK UP TO ST. PAUL STREET AND TURN LEFT, PASSING UNDER THE INNER LOOP FREEWAY. WALK UP TO PLATT STREET ON YOUR LEFT AND WALK TOWARDS THE BREWERY.

30. Genesee Brewing Company
445 St. Paul Street

The Aqueduct Spring Brewery was the first brewery in Rochester, blending hops in 1819. By the end of the 19th century there would be some 50 breweries operating in the city, testament to the vibrant German heritage here. One that started in 1857 was Charles Rau's Reisky & Spies, renowned as a lager brewery with a "first class saloon" and bowling alley. Mathius Kondolf enjoyed the brew enough to buy Reisky & Spies in 1878, changing its name to The Genesee Brewery. After Prohibition in the 1930s Genesee was one of the relatively few breweries to get back in business and introduced 12 Horse Ale along with America's only 12-horse hitch. In 1960 came its best-known product, Genesee Cream Ale; "Genny Cream" would win two gold medals at the Great American Beer Festival and become America's best selling ale. The brewery has changed ownership and names in recent years but is currently back operating as Genesee Brewing Company.

WALK OVER TO THE GENESEE RIVER AND LOCATE THE PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY TO GET ACROSS.

31. Pont De Rennes Pedestrian Bridge
Genesee River at High Falls

Taking its name from Rochester's "Sister City" in France, the Pont de Rennes pedestrian bridge and park were created in 1982 from what was the Platt Street bridge, an 858-foot-long, steel truss bridge built 114 feet above the river in 1891.

32. High Falls Genesee River

This gorge started about 10,000 years when the retreat of the last glaciers from the Ice Age diverted the Genesee River on its journey from Pennsylvania to Lake Ontario, one of the world's few north-flowing rivers. From Rochester to the lake the river drops 300 feet and two large chunks come in these 96-foot falls and a mile downstream in a 67-foot falls. The gorge is created as the crashing water ever so slowly erodes the underlying sedimentary rock as they migrate upstream.

High Falls stirred the imagination of settlers pushing into the wilderness in the early days of the Republic. Most saw the potential to power industry but Sam Patch, America's first famous daredevil, saw dollar signs a different way. He had begun his career in 1827 jumping off the 70-foot Passaic Falls in New Jersey and made his reputation two years later by becoming the first man to jump 125-feet into the Niagara River from Niagara Falls and survive. He did it twice. Patch immediately became a national sensation for his feat and quickly traveled to Rochester to challenge High Falls and cash in on his new fame. His first leap into the Genesee River on November 6, 1829 did not raise the kind of money he was looking for so he planned a second jump a week later this time 25 feet higher from a wooden platform. He may have slipped or been blown by strong winds but his launch was awkward and he was not able to enter the water arrow straight and feet first, instead striking the water with an audible thud. Sam Patch never resurfaced. His frozen body was discovered in the ice near the mouth of the river the following St. Patrick's Day.

CONTINUE ACROSS THE RIVER.
THE FIRST BUILDING ON YOUR
RIGHT IS...

33. Phoenix Mill Building 104 Platt Street

Charles Harford built a small gristmill here in 1808 but his industry was unrewarded and he sold the mill to Matthew and Francis Brown after a few years. The mill building was improved in 1812, but it burned in 1818. A replacement was

constructed immediately and the north wall of stone may be the oldest extant wall in the High Falls Area. The mill was once much larger but most of the building was claimed to make room for the Platt Street Bridge in 1890.

34. RG&E Beebee Power Station 100 Platt Street

An 1892 power plant produced steam heat for Rochester, only the third city in the country to find a way to purge the smoke-filled streets of coal-produced heat. Named for then Rochester Gas & Electric chairman Alexander Beebee, this power station went on line in 1959 and still uses a water turbine housed in a block structure at the southwest base of High Falls.

TURN LEFT ON BROWN'S RACE,
INTO THE OLDEST INDUSTRIAL
SECTION OF THE CITY.

35. Brown's Race

The brothers Matthew and Francis Brown invested \$3,872 to build a power canal in 1816. The plan was to divert water from above the High Falls and channel it along the raceway from which spillways would funnel water from the race into waiting mills. The raceway was a quarter-mile long, 30 feet wide and three feet deep - all hand-dug. Workers were paid 62 cents per day, plus lunch. As many as 17 mills would use water from the Brown's race, grinding enough wheat that Rochester became the flour capital of America. Eventually a wooden plank roadway covered the race and parts of it were rediscovered in a 1990s renewal of the area.

36. Rochester Water Works 74 Brown's Race

This building constructed in 1873 once housed the Rochester Water Works that pumped water under pressure to 105 hydrants in the city that enabled firefighters to battle blazes on the upper floors of the taller buildings that were then sprouting on Rochester streets. J. Foster Warner created a plant in the High Victorian Gothic style and its distinctive cast-iron cornice still graces the facade.

AT THE END OF BROWN'S RACE,
BEAR LEFT AND WALK OVER TO
HIGH FALLS.

37. Gorsline Building
4 Commercial Street

In 1882 the Steam Gauge and Lantern Company built a seven-story factory on the brink of High Falls. It was destroyed on November 9, 1888 when a fire swept through the building, trapping 41 workers in the conflagration. William Gorsline rebuilt atop the stone foundations and his Romanesque Revival brick building would come to house the Rochester Folding box Company and the shoe manufacturer Williams, Hoyt & Company, among others. Despite its prominent location as the guardian of High Falls, the building was abandoned for many years in the mid-20th century. Finally in 2000 the dilapidated structure was rescued and its unique views of High Falls even exploited.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS BACK TO
BROWN'S RACE AND CONTINUE
STRAIGHT ON COMMERCIAL
STREET.

38. Old Trolley Barn
61 Commercial Street

This low-slung, hangar-like structure dates to 1891 when it was built as the powerhouse for the Rochester Railway Company whose streetcars plied city streets. It was later the garage of the Rochester Transit Company.

TURN RIGHT ON MILL STREET.

39. Hunt Paper Box Company
192 Mill Street

This six-story factory building from the early 1880s boasts a unique arched brick and steel construction that was designed to be not only fire-proof but earthquake-proof as well. The occupant then was the J.K. Hunt Paper Box Company, makers of "paper boxes of every description."

40. Selye Fire Engine Company
208 Mill Street

This is one of the oldest extant buildings in the district, constructed in 1826 and typical of what Brown's Race would have looked like in its early days. The lower two floors are coursed stone rubble and the upper two stories are random ashlar stone with loading doors and hoist and pulleys. The Selye Fire Engine Company built Rochester's first fire engines here. In the 1860s Junius Judson operated from a complex that included this building. Judson invented the steam-engine governor used in industrial machinery, ships and railroad locomotives.

41. 224 Mill Street

This is one of Flour City's original flour mills, built in 1851 with brick and heavy timber. Later occupied by the Rochester Barrel Machine Works, in 1888 it was the largest factory in America making machinery to manufacture barrels.

In 1883, Robert T. French, then in his sixties, brought his family and his small wholesale trade in coffee, tea and spices to Rochester. It was sons George and Francis French who decided to counter the volcanic mustards of the day with a milder mix of seasonings. They blended a creamier mustard, colored bright yellow, and called it "French's Cream Salad Mustard." A nine-ounce jar sold for ten cents. For the first time consumers could buy a prepared mustard in a jar. The novel yellow mustard was introduced with the hot dog at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. By 1912, a new plant was needed in Rochester to satisfy demand. Another plant opened ten years later and in 1926 the French family sold their business to a British food company for nearly four million dollars. This was one of the French's processing plants.

TURN LEFT ON PLATT STREET
AND WALK ONE BLOCK TO STATE
STREET.

42. Rochester Button Company
294-300 State Street at Platt Street

In the early 1900s it was said that this was the world's largest manufacturer and distributor of buttons. The buttons that poured out of this circa 1900 factory were made from "vegetable ivory," processed nuts imported from Mexico, South America and Africa.

TO YOUR RIGHT IS...

43. Kodak Office Tower
343 State Street

George Eastman was always a fan of the letter "K" - a strong and incisive letter he thought. So when he decided to abandon his career as a bank clerk and devote himself to his hobby of photography by manufacturing a practical dry plate to sell to photographers he played around with letter combinations beginning and ending in the letter "K." He eventually landed on the non-sensical work "Kodak" and one of the world's iconic brands was born. He started his business closer to downtown on State Street but moved to this location in 1882. The 16-story tower was erected in 1914 with an additional three floors and a cupola coming along in 1930.

CONTINUE ON PLATT STREET
ONE MORE BLOCK TO PLYMOUTH
AVENUE AND TURN LEFT.

44. Frontier Field
One Morrie Silver Way

Baseball in Rochester dates back to 1877 with the "Rochesters" of the International Association, and Rochester has had a franchise in the league now known as the International League as early as 1885. The current franchise has been playing in Rochester since 1899, when the team was known as the Rochester Broncos and won the league championship in its inaugural season. On May 2, 1929 the team moved into Red Wing Stadium in the northern section of town and would stay for almost 70 years. Red Wing Stadium was renamed Silver Stadium in 1968 in honor of Morrie Silver who purchased the franchise from the St. Louis

Cardinals that owned the team and stadium and who, in 1957, were threatening to move oldest and longest running minor league franchise in the history of professional sports. The Red Wings moved closer to downtown in 1996 into this 10,868-seat park. Telecommunications company Frontier has held the naming rights to the ballpark since its opening.

TURN LEFT ON ALLEN STREET.
TURN RIGHT ON FITZHUGH
STREET.

45. Downtown United Presbyterian Church
121 North Fitzhugh Street

The first Presbyterian services were held in the homes of Hannah Scramton and Julia Wheelock in 1815 and by 1817 the First Presbyterian Church was in a small wood-frame building on State Street. This church, originally called "Brick Church," was designed in 1860 by Andrew Jackson Warner for the Second Presbyterian Church that had left First Church in 1825. In 1903 a fire sparked in a lantern factory across the street and the conflagration spread to the church's tall wooden steeple which collapsed through the roof. Only the side walls and two large interior columns survived. Warner's son, J. Foster, rebuilt the church with a pair of square Italianate towers to match his father's original Romanesque structure.

TURN LEFT ON CHURCH STREET.

46. City Hall
30 Church Street

The brawny style of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture with its massive rough-cut stone walls and powerful arches was a popular choice for American municipal buildings of the 1880s and 1890s and this Federal Building is a superb example. The building did duty as the city's main post office, courthouse, customs office and more until 1973. The City of Rochester picked up the old brown sandstone gem for a single dollar and after an award-winning renovation moved into its new City Hall.

TURN RIGHT ON STATE STREET.

47. Ellwanger & Barry Building
39-45 State Street

German-born George Ellwanger and Irish-born Patrick Barry hooked up in Rochester in 1840. Ellwanger had apprenticed in the nursery trade in Stuttgart for four years before he came to Ohio as a young man; after reaching these shores Barry was able to find work with the oldest and most elaborately developed nursery in America, the famous Linnean Nursery in Flushing, New York. Once in business for themselves they would import and propagate more new and rare species than any other horticulturalists of the time. Among his innovations were the dwarf apple and pear tree, several varieties of beech tree and the Northern Spy apple. The Ellwanger and Barry Nursery grew to be the largest operation of its kind in the world and the main reason that Rochester changed its nickname from the “Flour City” to the “Flower City” when horticulture overtook milling as the city’s leading industry. Andrew Jackson Warner built this Romanesque-style building for the horticulturists in 1888.

48. First National Bank
35 State Street

This site was occupied by a grand Second Empire building of the Monroe County Savings Bank that was torn down to make way for this Neoclassical vault for the First National Bank of Rochester. The bank looks out on State Street through a quartet of fluted Corinthian columns of dressed marble that supports an entablature with pediment and an elevated attic story.

WALK A FEW MORE STEPS TO
RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING
POINT AT FOUR CORNERS.

Look Up,

Rome



A Walking Tour of Rome...

For centuries the area occupied by today's Rome has been known to the travelers in the north-central woods. Boats coming up the Mohawk River from the Hudson River had to transfer their cargo and boats overland only between 1.7 and six miles, depending on the season, to continue west to Lake Ontario. The portage between the Mohawk River and Wood Creek was used by canoeists of the Iroquoian-speaking peoples and early English settlers called it the Oneida Carrying Place. Such a place of importance needed to be protected and the British erected several small forts along the Carrying Place to guard its lucrative fur trade from French interests in Canada. In 1758, during the French and Indian War British General John Stanwix began building a more substantial fortification here. Fort Stanwix was abandoned in 1768 and allowed to go to ruin but was revived by American Continentals during the Revolution. It was the primary staging point for American attacks against the British and continued to protect the frontier until it was abandoned in 1781.

With peace at hand settlers began to trickle into the Carrying Place. Dominick Lynch acquired 2,397 acres here in 1786 and began selling village lots. In 1797 the portage was eliminated with the completion of a canal connecting the Mohawk River and Wood Creek, a considerable engineering feat for the day ushering in a new era of progress. Twenty years later the Erie Canal, which was originally sited south of the village, was relocated and Rome's success was assured.

Railroads followed the canals and with it came industry. Jesse Williams founded America's first cheese factory at Rome in 1851. More importantly, in 1866 the Rome Iron Works began rolling iron rails and a decade later began rolling brass. The company evolved into Revere Copper and Brass, employing thousands in the world's largest copper rolling mill. At one time, 10 percent of all copper products used in the United States were manufactured in Rome.

The United States Air Force became the dominant employer in Rome in the second half of the 20th century. Ground was broken on August 2, 1941 for the Rome Air Depot which became named Griffiss Air Force Base after Lt. Colonel Townsend E. Griffiss, the first U.S. airman to be killed in the line of duty in the European Theater during World War II. Griffiss became the headquarters of the Northeast Air Defense Sector until it was de-activated in the 1990s.

Rome is the second largest city by area in New York State and aggressive urban renewal efforts make it seem that way. Our spread-out tour will begin where the British dug their trenches during the siege of Fort Stanwix...

1. Gansevoort Park
James, Court, Park and Church streets

Peter Gansevoort was born in 1749 in Albany into one of the original Dutch families in New York. Gansevoort joined the Albany militia at the outbreak of the American Revolution and his commanding presence soon earned him a command. He was made a full Colonel and led the 3rd New York Regiment in its resistance the siege of Fort Stanwix in 1777. After the war Gansevoort returned to the Hudson Valley to look after the family brewery, farms and mills. In 1809, he was made a Brigadier General in the United States Army but died at his home in Albany at the outbreak of the War of 1812. This statue was placed here in 1907 and East Park was renamed Gansevoort Park.

STANDING IN THE CENTER OF
GANSEVOORT PARK FACE NORTH
WITH JAMES STREET ON YOUR
LEFT. BEGIN WALKING CLOCKWISE
AROUND THE PARK, MOVING TO
YOUR RIGHT.

2. Oneida County Courthouse
302 North James Street

In 1849 Oneida County authorized the building of a new Courthouse and jail in Rome at a cost not to exceed \$12,000. The Greek Revival Courthouse was completed sometime after 1850. A two-story addition was added on the North James Street side to house County offices in 1896. In 1902 the porch was rebuilt and a dome added to permit light and ventilation to the upstairs courtroom.

3. Rome Historical Society
200 Church Street

The Rome Historical Society was founded in 1936 and moved into here in 1980. The brick Colonial Revival building began life as a post office.

4. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
105 East Liberty Street at James Street

When this church was completed in 1897 it was hailed by the *New York Times* as "the handsomest in the State outside the larger cities." Archimedes Russell, maybe the busiest architect to ever practice in central New York, provided the plans for the Romanesque-styled church. Russell completed nearly 850 commissions during his forty-three year career and this was the largest church he ever designed.

The price tag for St. Peter's, constructed of Medina sandstone and rock-faced ashlar, was \$150,000. The altar alone, fashioned of white marble and Mexican onyx, cost \$6,000 and was paid for by James A. Murphy. Murphy left the town for Chicago where he became a millionaire broker and nationally known as the owner of America's fastest pacing horse for awhile, Star Pointer. St. Peter's was the first Catholic congregation to form in Rome, moving into a meetinghouse along the Mohawk River in the early 1840s.

TURN LEFT ON JAMES STREET.

5. Old City Hall
207 North James Street

Rome didn't have a real City Hall until the cornerstone was laid for this splendid Dutch-inspired building on October 14, 1894. Two stories of brick rise above a rusticated stone first story. The square building is topped by a tile-covered hipped roof crowned by a domed cupola. The City Hall is trimmed in stone and decorated with fluted pilasters. The government moved out in the 1970s and the building is now occupied by public agencies.

6. Fort Stanwix
100 North James Street

It was possible for early travelers and later English settlers to paddle by canoe from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean if their transport could be picked up and carried across a short, level stretch of ground between the Mohawk River and the Wood Creek, near present day Rome. The British built Fort Stanwix here in

1758 to replace three smaller forts that protected the Oneida Carry during the early years of the French and Indian War. The fort, named for its builder Brigadier General John Stanwix, never saw action and was abandoned when the British won Canada in 1763.

In June 1776, Colonel Elias Dayton began rebuilding an old frontier fort on the strategic portage between the headwaters of the Mohawk River and Wood Creek. By July 1777, Fort Stanwix was garrisoned with 750 troops. It was eventually fortified. Fort Stanwix was a prime objective in General Burgoyne's New York campaign of 1777. Needing a western diversion to draw troops away from Albany, he sent Lt. Colonel Barry St. Leger against Fort Stanwix to clear the western approach to Albany in late July. St. Leger, reinforced with Tories and Indians, arrived at the fort on August 3 and quickly decided against a frontal assault. American defender Colonel Peter Gansevoort "rejected with disdain" the British demand for surrender.

St. Leger and his 1,700 men settled into a siege. He was first distracted by a relief column of Nicholas Herkimer three days later at Oriskany, but the Americans were forced into retreat with severe casualties. Three weeks into the action Brigadier General Benedict Arnold began another relief mission from Fort Dayton, 30 miles to the south. As Arnold approached with 800 Continentals, St. Leger's Indian allies deserted and he soon retreated. The British never conquered Fort Stanwix; the American defenders in Albany never turned away from Burgoyne's army; and the British initiative to win the upper Hudson River was over.

Fort Stanwix was manned until 1781 but never tested again. In October 1784, American and Iroquois representatives met here to negotiate the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, which set terms for a separate peace with the Indians and forced the Iroquois Confederacy to cede large tracts of their ancestral lands to the United States.

A blockhouse was constructed at Fort Stanwix to store ammunition, but it disappeared sometime after 1815. By 1830 the fort was leveled. It has been completely reconstructed to its 1777 appearance inside a palisade fence above the glacis.

TURN RIGHT ON DOMINICK STREET.

7. **Rome Savings Bank** **100 West Dominick Street**

The Rome Savings Bank took its first deposit - \$20 from Smith Tulley - on September 16, 1851. W. Hervey Brayton was elected the first president. The first mortgage was issued to the First Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$3,000. The bank remained independent for nearly 160 years before being acquired by the Massachusetts-based Berkshire Hill Bancorp company in 2010.

8. **The Capitol Theatre Center** **for the Performing Arts** **220 West Dominick Street**

Brothers Michael J. Kallet and Joseph S. Kallet got into the entertainment business in 1920 when they renovated the Carroll Theater on East Dominick Street and called it the Strand Theater. In 1928 they erected Rome's first building designed only to show movies with over 1,741 seats. Opening night on December 10 featured the Capitol Theatre screening Colleen Moore and Gary Cooper in the wartime romance *Lilac Time*. In 1939 the theater received an Art Deco makeover with "scientific indirect lighting" on the ceiling dome, air conditioning and a Vitrolite glass ticket booth. The Capitol sputtered to a close in 1974 but it was reworked for use as a performing arts center. Today the Capitol, backed by a rare Moller concert organ with seven ranks of pipes, is one of the few places in New York where early silent films can still be viewed with music and sound effects.

TURN RIGHT ON NORTH GEORGE STREET.

9. **H.P. Sears Service Station** **201 North George Street at Liberty Street**

Howard P. Sears left school at the age of 14 in 1910 and rode the trolley to Utica to buy used bicycles. He checked them for free in the baggage car and returned to Rome where he fixed the bicycles up and resold them. He quickly realized, however, that the automobile was replacing the

bicycle and when he was still only 15 Sears had published an automobile accessories catalog under the name of Sears Auto Supply Company.

By 1919 Sears was selling gasoline from his shop and was soon delivering oil in his first truck. In 1929 he built a modern filling station in Utica and an identical station opened in this location in 1930. In 1936 the stations were upgraded with red, white and blue art-deco porcelain enamel oval signs. The gas station stopped operating in 1974 and was vacant until 2002 when restoration began for its conversion into a museum.

**10. First Methodist Episcopal Church
of Rome
400 North George Street at
Embargo Street**

The First Methodist Episcopal Society of Rome, NY, was established in 1799 with meetings held in a house about three miles from the village. In 1819 when the Village of Rome incorporated the congregation moved into the court house. The first church was constructed in 1829 on East Court Street and was replaced by this brick edifice in 1869. Architect Marcus Fayette Cummings of Utica drew up the Italianate flavored house of worship with its 150-foot-tall steeple.

TURN RIGHT ON
EMBARGO STREET.

*AT WASHINGTON STREET YOU
REACH ONE OF THE MOST
FASHIONABLE RESIDENTIAL
STREETS IN THE CITY. TO SEE THE
ROME PUBLIC LIBRARY HOUSED IN
THE HOME OF ONE OF ITS MOST
NOTED 19TH CENTURY CITIZENS,
TURN LEFT AND WALK THREE
BLOCKS AND RETURN TO THIS
CORNER. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO
TAKE THAT DETOUR, TURN RIGHT
AND GO TO STOP #12.*

**11. Jervis Library
613 North Washington Street**

When the first shovels of dirt were turned on the Erie Canal John Bloomfield Jervis was hired as an axeman. Within two years he was resident engineer in charge of the canal's middle section. Jervis would go on to fashion one of the 19th century's most celebrated engineering careers. Included in his achievements were work on the Delaware and Hudson Canal, the Croton Aqueduct and the Harlem River High Bridge. When railroads were just beginning to appear in America, he drew plans for the "Stourbridge Lion," the first locomotive to run on this continent. He also invented the swiveling, four-wheel "bogie" truck, to keep the engine from jumping the track when rounding curves.

In 1894 the Jervis Public Library Association was incorporated by an act of the New York state legislature. Although a downtown location was the vote for convenience, Jervis had bequeathed his property and personal collection of books and documents for a town library when he died a decade earlier so new library moved into his 1857 mansion.

**12. Stevens Mansion/VFW No 2246
315 North Washington Street**

Rome native Jim Stevens entered politics in 1866 at the age of 30 and went on to be in the forefront of the Democratic Party in New York for more than a quarter-century. Stevens was in the state senate and also served as mayor of Rome. In the business world Stevens was the ruling force in the Rome Merchant Iron Mill, one of the city's largest industries in the 19th century. He was also at the head of the city's largest dry goods store, Jackson & Company, and was president of the Central National Bank of Rome.

Stevens began construction of one of Rome's most magnificent mansions in April 1890. The site was regarded as the most desirable spot in the most fashionable part of the city. Stevens worked in tandem with Syracuse architect Archimedes Russell to create an ornate Victorian palace of Potsdam red sandstone trimmed in Longmeadow Kidby brownstone. A three-story brick stable on the grounds is constructed of pressed brick and finished inside of the finest oak. The property

was purchased by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1945.

AT LIBERTY STREET TURN RIGHT.

13. St. Mary's of the Assumption Church
210 West Liberty Street

German Catholics who came to Rome to work on the Erie Canal and the railroads began worshipping in the 1840s and constructed a small church in 1848. The cornerstone for this brick Gothic-flavored church was laid on May 18, 1871; its location on West Liberty Street caused a split in the congregation, leading the German Independent Catholic Society to break away. St. Mary's parish remained independent until being folded into St. Peter's in 2009 due to a lack of priests. The church is now maintained by the Syracuse Diocese for special services and events.

TURN AND WALK EAST
ON LIBERTY STREET.

14. Zion Episcopal Church
140 West Liberty Street

Zion Episcopal Church was founded in 1825 as a mission of the Trinity Episcopal Church in New York City. Richard Upjohn, America's leading cheerleader for the Gothic Revival style in church architecture in the 1800s, drew up the plans for this meetinghouse in 1850. It is the oldest church building in Rome and sports several stained glass windows from Tiffany studios.

AT JAMES STREET TURN LEFT AND
WALK PAST OLD CITY HALL INTO
THE PUBLIC SQUARE.

15. First Presbyterian Church
108 West Court Street

Early settlers gathered to worship in 1793 in the home of Ebenezer Wright and in 1800 the Reverend Simon Watermen established the First Religious Society of Rome, a Congregational denomination. The church joined the Presbyterian denomination in 1807 and constructed its first meetinghouse on the public square in 1808. This Italianate-inspired church with its 180-foot steeple dates to 1852.

WALK BACK ACROSS JAMES STREET
INTO GANSEVOORT PARK AND
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Saratoga Springs



A Walking Tour of Saratoga Springs...

Saratoga Springs - there are 17 of the mineral springs in the town - first came to the attention of European settlers in the 1770s. From the beginning those who arrived here cast an eye to catering to potential visitors to the waters rather than carving out farmland in the wilderness. The first permanent resident is considered to be Samuel Norton who was soon operating a crude log hotel near the High Rock Spring. As the area around this spring developed it would become known as the "Upper Village."

About a mile to the south the Congress Spring that would become the cornerstone of the village was discovered in 1792. Gideon Putnam, who had been in the area since 1789 making a living shipping wooden staves and shingles down the Hudson River, tapped the Congress Spring and constructed the Tavern and Boarding House in 1802. He then set about platting a street grid and grand hotels soon followed. By 1819 Saratoga Springs was cleaved from the Town of Saratoga and in 1826 it was incorporated as a village.

The railroad accelerated growth and in 1864 John Hunter and William R. Travers introduced thoroughbred horse racing to Saratoga Springs with a four-day meet. Gambling mixed well with the carbonated natural spring water and Saratoga moved easily to the head of resort destinations for wealthy Americans in the Gilded Age from the 1880s to the 1910s.

The glory days did not last. By the middle of the 20th century gambling was illegal and Americans had no interest in medicinal waters. The rich and famous could jet to resorts around the world. One by one the rambling luxury hotels were torn down and scores of old "cottages" were pressed into service as boarding houses, college dorms or just left vacant.

The "idea" of Saratoga Springs never died, however, and by the 1990s the appeal of a summer at the spa had returned. Much of the fabled building stock for the 19th century is gone but enough remains to experience what it was like when each summer high society settled comfortably in the "Queen of Spas." So grab a cup to sample the waters and our walking tour will begin hard by the most famous spring of them all...

1. Heritage Area Visitor Center
297 Broadway

This ornate single-story building began life in 1915 as a Trolley Station for the Hudson Valley Railroad where summer resort guests could hop the trolley and ride to the Saratoga Spa a little ways south of town. The station came from the drawing rooms of architects William Orr Ludlow and Charles S. Peabody, who were busy around New York from 1895 until 1935 and contributed several memorable buildings such as the Chase Tower, the Johns Manville Building and the New York Times Building in New York City. In 1908 Peabody had attended the famed Paris Ecole des Beaux Arts and ranked at the top of the class of 200 graduates and he applied those principles learned to the Saratoga Springs Trolley Station, creating an elegance seldom seen in similar structures. Inside, much of the original chestnut woodwork has been preserved. Exterior relief murals depict the legend of Sir William Johnson being carried to the High Rock Springs by the Mohawks, and the surrender of General Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga.

After the dissolution of the trolley line in 1940 the building was converted into a Drink Hall where tourists could gather and enjoy bottles of mineral water. The Drink Hall was shuttered in 1965 and eventually evolved into an informational center. In 1992 it was converted into a New York State Heritage Area Visitor Center.

**WALK ACROSS THE STREET
INTO CONGRESS PARK.**

2. Congress Park
south side of Broadway

The current 17-acre, grassy basin park dates to 1913 when it was landscaped by Charles Leavitt and Henry Bacon. Bacon would shortly afterward begin work on the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Congress Spring was named in 1792 when it was visited by a group that included two members of the newly established United States Congress. A decade later, in 1803, Gideon Putnam built a hotel around the spring in what was still a largely unsettled frontier and the resort was off and running. The Congress Spring Bottling Plant would eventually operate here as

well. In addition to Congress Spring, the park boasts three other naturally carbonated mineral springs - Columbian Spring, Deer Park Spring and Hathorn #1. The water is used to fill formal Italian gardens and lagoons that are decorated with sculptures, including The Spirit of Life, a statue by Daniel Chester French memorializing Spencer Trask, a great benefactor of the Saratoga area who founded the Yaddo writers' colony.

**WALK OVER TO THE MAIN
BUILDING IN THE CENTER OF
THE PARK THAT IS...**

3. Canfield Casino
Congress Park

Irish-born John Morrissey rose from the street gangs and jails of New York City to become a much-loved United States Congressman. During a gang fight as a youth Morrissey had his back pinned against a coal-burning stove and as smoke from his burning flesh filled the room he battered his opponent, earning the enduring nickname "Old Smoke." Morrissey found his way into the professional boxing ring and at the age of 22 in 1853 he became the American Champion. His career after boxing led into gambling and politics. He owned a stake in as many as 16 casinos, opening this one in 1866. Morrissey died of pneumonia at the age of 47 in 1878 but the casino continued in operation. In 1894, John Canfield purchased the casino and made it more luxurious than ever in the Gilded Age of Saratoga Springs. Gambling was banned in 1907, however, and Canfield retired, selling the hotel to the city. The city shortly demolished the hotel and the neighboring bottling plant and today only the brick Italianate casino with sandstone trim from 1870 is the only surviving building from the resort era. It houses the Museum of the Historical Society of Saratoga Springs that was founded in 1883.

**FROM THE FRONT OF THE CA-
SINO, WALK STRAIGHT THROUGH
CONGRESS PARK PAST THE HIS-
TORICAL PONDS AND UP THE
STEPS TO CIRCULAR STREET ON
THE WEST EDGE OF THE PARK.
TURN LEFT.**

4. **Batcheller Mansion Inn** 20 Circular Street

George Sherman Batcheller was born in the family village of Batchellerville in 1837 descended from Daniel Webster, America's premier orator, and Roger Sherman, the only person to sign all four great state papers of the United States: the Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution. Batcheller wasted little time in making his own mark - he graduated Harvard Law School at the age of 19 and two years later he became the youngest member to be elected to the New York State Assembly.

In 1872 Batcheller retained Albany architects Charles C. Nichols and John B. Halcott to build the home he would call "Kaser-el-nouzha," Arabic for "palace of pleasure." Combining French Renaissance Revival, Italianate and Egyptian influences, the plans by Nichols and Halcott were considered so special they were patented. The busy Batcheller would be appointed Judge and American Representative in the Court of First Instance in Cairo, Egypt by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1875 and thereafter he and his wife and daughter spent much of the next three decades abroad. The long stretches of sitting unoccupied would prepare the house for its life during much of the 20th century. It did duty as a rooming house and retirement home and suffered periods of vacancy. In the 1980s it was rescued and rehabilitated and has operated as a boutique inn since 1994.

5. **Nolan House** 24 Circular Street

Michael Nicholas Nolan entered the brewing business in Albany in 1865, helming the Quinn & Nolan Ale Brewing Company. He became one of the state's leading sportsmen and horse owners while serving one term in Congress and in 1878 was elected the first Irish-born mayor of Albany. He built this splendid brick Second Empire mansion with an eye-catching mansard roof as a summer home from where he was able to oversee his stable of steeplechasers and racehorses. Today it serves as the home for the Presbyterian-New England Congregational Church.

TURN RIGHT ON UNION AVENUE.
THIS TREE-LINED STREET
EXTENDS FROM THE TOWN
DOWN THROUGH THE HISTORIC
RACE TRACK AND WAS GRACED
BY ELEGANT VICTORIAN
COTTAGES IN THE LATE 1800S.
BEGINNING IN MAY EACH YEAR
THESE HOUSES WOULD BE
OCCUPIED BY THEIR OWNERS
OR PROMINENT VISITORS, WHICH
WERE DUTIFULLY NOTED BY
PAPERS SUCH AS THE *NEW YORK
TIMES*. STAY ON THE SOUTH
(RIGHT SIDE) OF THE ROAD.

6. **Saratoga Race Course** Union Avenue

William Riggan Travers, a 44-year old lawyer flush with cash from Wall Street, and his partner John Hunter founded Saratoga Race Course in 1863. The original track was built across Union Avenue but the current venue - the oldest sporting venue of any kind in the United States - was ready by the following year. Saratoga Race Course has played host to many of horse racing's most historic moments, including the 1919 defeat of the immortal Man O' War to the aptly named colt Upset. It was the only loss of his 21-race career.

The grounds at Saratoga contain several unique features. There is a mineral spring called the Big Red Spring in the picnic grounds where patrons can partake of the water that made Saratoga Springs famous. A lake in the middle of the track contains a canoe that is painted annually in the colors of the winning stable for that year's Travers Stakes winner. If the race course is not open the Main track can be viewed a little ways past the main gate from Union Avenue.

CROSS THE STREET.

**7. National Museum of Racing and
Hall of Fame
191 Union Avenue**

The New York summer resort famous for its mineral spas has been synonymous with horse racing since the 1800s. The oldest continually run stakes race in America - the Travers Stakes - has been contested each August in Saratoga since 1869. The museum began modestly in space in the Canfield Casino in 1951 and moved into this brick building four years later. The location, directly across from the race course, was first developed in 1894 by Joseph J. Gleason, a famous bookmaker of the time known as "one, two, three Gleason." Gracing the courtyard is a statue of Triple Crown winner Secretariat. On the front lawn sits an eighth pole that was on Belmont Racetrack when Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes by a remarkable 31 lengths in 1973. True to legend, one of the great chestnut colt's few losses took place here in Saratoga, at the "Graveyard of Favorites."

TURN LEFT AND WALK BACK UP
UNION AVENUE TOWARDS
CONGRESS PARK AND THE
CENTER OF TOWN.

**8. The Furness House
55 Union Avenue**

R. Newton Brezee, a popular Queen Anne style architect, contributed this eclectic mansion with corner tower to the Saratoga streetscape for George Crippen, owner of a dry goods business and later a women's dress manufacturer. It was later purchased in 1920 by Charles Furness, owner of the *Glens Falls Times* and spent more than 30 years as a freshman dorm for Skidmore College, which salvaged many of the crumbling Saratoga mansions. In 1992 the 91-year old house underwent a complete facelift and now operates as a guest house.

TURN RIGHT ON CIRCULAR
STREET AND MAKE YOUR FIRST
LEFT ON SPRING STREET.

**9. Carousel
Congress Park**

In 1910 Marcus Charles Illions carved these basswood horses using real horsehair for the tails. The carousel led a peripatetic existence around Saratoga County until 1987 when it appeared the wooden steeds would be put permanently out to pasture. The community of Saratoga Springs then offered \$150,000 to bring the carousel to Congress Park where it has since been restored.

**10. Saratoga Arts Center
320 Broadway at southeast corner of
Spring Street**

Founded in 1986 by artists, Saratoga Arts moved into this corner home in 1997, converting the Colonial Revival brick building into a gallery and performance space.

TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY.

**11. The Adelphi Hotel
165 Broadway**

This is your chance to glimpse what it meant to arrive in style in Saratoga in the glamour days of the resort in the 1800s - it is the last surviving grand hotel from the 19th century. Constructed in 1877 in the Italianate style, the Adelphi boasts a trademark three-story, 90-foot "Saratoga porch" with slender columns and open spandrels.

The Adelphi was never among the most luxurious of Saratoga's grandest hotels, which may have contributed to its escaping the wrecking ball. In the wave of urban renewal across Saratoga in the 1970s the Adelphi presented an affordable renovation option. A century earlier it had been the dream of William McCaffery, a railroad conductor, who inherited an earlier hotel called the Old Adelpia from his wife's family. He tore that building down to make room for his four-story inn designed in the manner of an Italian villa.

12. S.W. Ainsworth Building
456–470 Broadway

Seymour Ainsworth was born one of twelve children - all of whom would live at least into their fifties - in Woodbury, Vermont in 1821. Trained in the carriage-making trade, he migrated to Saratoga at the age of 19. Ainsworth built his fortune peddling items of Indian manufacture - deerskin moccasins, woven baskets and the like. An energetic inventor, Ainsworth would obtain nearly thirty patents for devices and processes connected with his many lines of business. He developed a manufacturing process for creating fans from ostrich feathers and for a number of years he furnished A. T. Stewart, Lord & Taylor, and other large retail houses with all the feather fans they sold. Active in Saratoga real estate, Ainsworth constructed this ornate High Victorian brick three-story commercial block in 1871.

13. Adirondack Trust Company Building
473 Broadway

Founded by State Senator Edgar T. Brackett, Adirondack Trust opened its doors on January 2, 1902 and by the next decade was successful enough to construct this impressive marble-faced Beaux-Arts vault in 1916. S. Alfred Hopkins, a celebrated architect who built his reputation on sprawling rural New York estates drew up the design that features Adirondack-themed decorations inside and out. More than a century after its inception Adirondack Trust is the largest independent community Bank in Saratoga County.

14. City Hall
474 Broadway

The imposing City Hall that dominates its corner today was even more impressive when it was constructed in 1871. The three-story brick Italianate building designed by Cummings & Burt of Troy originally sported a central tower that held a bell weighing 5,276 pounds. At the peak of the tower was a four-sided clock with a face six feet across. The price tag for the new government center, which included a two-story theater, was \$109,999.46. In 1934 the belltower was declared unsafe and dismantled. The bronze lions that have stood guard at the entrance since the

building's completion received a restoration in 2009, along with new granite steps.

15. U.S. Post Office
475 Broadway

Treasury Department supervising architect James Knox Taylor designed this Classical Revival building in 1910. If the post office is open, walk through the bronze doors to experience what was considered the most elaborate lobby of any post office in the state in its day.

16. Collamer Building
480–494 Broadway

Stretching across 18 bays, this large 1884 commercial building festooned with tiny turrets along its roofline was constructed in 1884.

17. Algonquin Building
508 Broadway

The block-filling Algonquin Building was constructed in 1893 with Romanesque-inspired arches everywhere in the brick and stone and terra-cotta facade. From the beginning it was part of the new wave of multi-use downtown buildings that featured roomy upscale living space on the upper floors above the retail shops on the ground floor.

TURN LEFT ON WALTON STREET.
TURN LEFT ON WOODLAWN
STREET. TURN RIGHT ON
DIVISION STREET.

18. Marvin-Sackett-Todd House
4 Franklin Square

Thomas Marvin, a nephew of the founder of the United States Hotel, one of Saratoga Springs' early resorts, built this Greek Revival house in the 1830s to the rear of the landmark hotel. In the ensuing 175 years the building has seen virtually no alterations and in 1972 was the first property in Saratoga Springs to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Franklin Square, which contains 87 mostly upscale mid-19th century residences surrounding the village railroad

station, was the city's first historic district, also designated in 1972.

TURN LEFT ON FRANKLIN STREET.
TURN LEFT ON WASHINGTON STREET.

19. First Baptist Church
45 Washington Street

The oldest church in town is the First Baptist church, organized in 1793 by ten members of the First Baptist church of Stillwater. This grand brick Greek Revival house of worship with a broad triangular pediment was the largest meetinghouse in Saratoga when it was constructed in 1855. The original church once boasted a clocktower on its present truncated octagonal tower.

20. Universal Preservation Hall
25 Washington Street

Originally constructed for the Methodist church to host their annual regional meeting, the hall developed into one of the most impressive assembly places in the state. William Jennings Bryan, Henry Ward Beecher, Frederick Douglass, Senator Edgar T. Brackett and President William Howard Taft all appeared on its stage. Prominent architect Elbridge Boyden of Worcester, Massachusetts created one of his finest examples of High Victorian architecture by contrasting rose colored brick and light Ohio sandstone across the richly decorated facade. The majestic bell tower, which is the tallest structure in Saratoga Springs, houses a 3,000 pound Meneely bell cast in nearby Troy. The building was condemned in 1999 and a consortium of local citizens rallied to save the historic gathering space.

21. Bethesda Episcopal Church
41 Washington Street

Richard Upjohn, America's leading proponent of the Gothic ecclesiastical style, came to Saratoga Springs to build this stone church for the congregation that had formed in 1830. Rockwell Putnam, son of first city planner Gideon Putnam, donated the land for the church and cleared his own house off the property to make way for Upjohn's church that was ready by 1844. Church

design was fickle in the 1800s and the building was redesigned twice before the century was out, leaving it with a more castle-like appearance evocative of the Norman Romanesque conquerors of England in 1066. The different colors of the stone and the different sizes show the various renovations of the church through the years.

TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY AND
WALK ONE BLOCK BACK TO THE
TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Schenectady



A Walking Tour of Schenectady...

Someone who checked once counted that the name Schenectady is spelled seventy-nine different ways in the early documents. It derives from the Indian description “at the end of the pine plains” for the western end of the portage between the Mohawk and Hudson rivers. The area’s importance as a transportation route continued with the arrival of European settlers first along the river, then along the Erie Canal (entombed beneath the pavement of Erie Boulevard) and then along the lines of the Mohawk & Hudson Railroad.

Schenectady evolved as a company town, the first being the Schenectady Locomotive Works built by Scotsman John Ellis with his master mechanic, Walter McQueen. In 1851 the 56-year old Ellis acquired a little locomotive plant in town that had managed to produce but a single locomotive, “The Lightning,” which was run for about a year between Utica and Schenectady, but was finally pronounced a failure by locomotive engineers of that day. It was the ambition of John Ellis not only to construct locomotives but to build the cars behind them and his railroad works came to rival the largest in the land. For the remainder of the 19th century “The Big Shop” carried the growth of the city on its shoulders.

But it was a couple of abandoned and unused warehouses from the railroad works that set the course for Schenectady in the following century. In the 1880s Thomas Edison was in the early stages of electrifying America around New York City when he became weary of the labor problems he was constantly butting up against. He determined to move his nascent machine works elsewhere. He heard tell of two buildings in the McQueen yard that were still not completed and came to Schenectady to inspect the facilities. He offered to buy them from the railroad men but his offer was \$7,500 below the asking price.

Schenectady businessmen caught wind of the dealings and set out to cover the difference. They struggled to raise the money and were still \$500 short with a deadline looming before Edison was to close a land deal in New Jersey. Although it was after hours the group’s leaders knocked on the door of the Mohawk Bank anyway and indeed found the son of one their group working late. He agreed to put up the last \$500 which was wired to Edison and sealed the deal. The Edison works moved to Schenectady in 1886 and in 1894 the city was designated as the headquarters of General Electric.

Those two small buildings would spawn a complex of 360 buildings spread across 670 acres of land. The Schenectady plant would be the largest of more than 150 General Electric facilities around the globe, employing more than 23,000 workers. Our walking tour of the “The City that Lights and Hauls the World” won’t find much remaining from its two giant industries but their legacy remains and we will begin at a grand building that symbolizes those heady times...

1. Schenectady City Hall
105 Jay Street on the block between
Clinton, Franklin, and Liberty streets

There wasn't much money for governments to throw around during the Great Depression but you would never know by looking at this majestic city hall. City officials threw its design open to a nationwide competition and the legendary New York firm of McKim, Mead and White (although all the founding partners were deceased by this time) won the commission. They delivered a monumental Neo-Georgian brick building with a full-height central portico on the front and a semicircular projecting wing on the rear enclosing a rotunda. Marble is used for pilasters, quoins and the rusticated raised basement. Its crowning feature is the square clock tower with its gold-leaf dome and weathervane. Ground breaking was in 1931 and construction was completed in 1933.

WITH YOUR BACK TO CITY HALL
TURN LEFT AND WALK DOWN
JAY STREET INTO THE RETAIL
DISTRICT. TURN RIGHT ON
STATE STREET AND WALK UNDER
THE RAILROAD TRACKS TO
THE INTERSECTION WITH ERIE
AVENUE, THE OLD ERIE CANAL.

2. The Nicholaus Block
266-268 State Street at Erie Avenue

Louis and Sophie Nicholaus bought an old saloon in 1895 and opened the Nicholaus Hotel in 1901. The eclectic three-story brick building boasts a fanciful cornice and corner turret.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS
BACK UP STATE STREET.

3. Schenectady Trust Company
320 State Street

On February 17, 1902, the Schenectady Trust Company was chartered—formed through the purchase of the assets of the Schenectady Bank that had started taking deposits in 1832. As the credit union for the General Electric Corporation the bank prospered mightily along with the

ascendancy of the company and constructed this Neoclassical vault in 1919. This is the location of the Mohawk Bank where the final money to bring General Electric to town was obtained.

4. Witbeck Building
413 State Street

Clark Witbeck fashioned a long business career in Schenectady. He founded the Clark Witbeck Hardware Co. as a general hardware supplier in 1899 at 413 State Street and moved into this five-story Beaux Arts-inspired building in 1905.

5. Proctor's Theatre
432 State Street

Entertainment impresario Frederick Freeman Proctor built this as a vaudeville house in 1926 and four years later it hosted the first public demonstration of television. But mostly it was a movie palace with one of the largest screens in the Northeast. Noted theater architect Thomas Lamb designed the State Street landmark in a classical fashion. The front facade is faced in stucco with engaged Doric pilasters. Ornamentation includes garlands and paterae on the friezes. A large marquee covers the sidewalk in front. Proctor spent \$1.5 million on his showcase in the 1920s; a recent expansion and facelift gobbled up \$24.5 million.

6. The Parker Inn
434 State Street

Now operating as a boutique hotel, this three-bay, eight story building demonstrates the popular theory for designing the new high rises of the early 20th century. Playing off the Chicago school of architecture these "skyscrapers" were crafted to look like a classical column. Here you can see the base (the rusticated stone frame for the lower floors); the shaft (the relatively unadorned middle floors) and the capital (the Beaux Arts-inspired decorative cornice). The Parker Building was constructed in 1906 by John N. Parker, an attorney and Assistant State Superintendent of Public Works; it was the tallest commercial building in the city for decades.

**7. Citizens' Trust Company of Schenectady
436 State Street**

The Citizens Trust Company organized in 1906 with Henry S. Lansing as its chief shareholder. In 1920 the bank settled into this beautifully proportioned Neoclassical vault framed by pilasters and columns of the Corinthian order. The bank was absorbed by Key Bank in 1980.

**8. Foster Building
508 State Street**

When built in 1907, it was the first building in the city to use terra cotta as its primary siding on the front facade, and the first built under the precepts of the City Beautiful movement that was sweeping America in the early years of a new century. Scarcely a foot of the battered front facade is unadorned. On the first two stories the storefront is framed with acanthus leaves and garlands with mock keystones and rectangular blocks. The windows are brass-framed glass with the two-story storefront as a whole framed in marble. Above the storefronts, the upper facade in three bays is articulated by three-story high engaged pilasters with highly enriched Corinthian capitals. Fluted Ionic half-columns divide the window bays. All four support pedimented Roman arches. Oversized brackets support the metal cornice. Decorative panels are placed between all three upper stories. In the divided central bays of the panels below the fifth story is the modeled and cast inscription "FOSTER BVILDING." Penn Varney of Massachusetts was the architect behind this unique building that stood out from its mostly brick neighbors.

**9. First United Methodist Church
603 State Street**

This church was organized in 1807, growing out of sermons by circuit-riding preachers under British rule. The cornerstone of the first house of worship was laid on July 28, 1808 with the town mayor placing the initial block. It was sited on Liberty Street and directly in the path of the Erie Canal a decade later so it was carted to Union Street. By 1836 the congregation had outgrown its building and built again on Liberty Street, a structure now known as Bethesda House, a

facility that provides day care and services for the homeless in Schenectady. This is the third church to serve the congregation, dedicated on March 12, 1874.

**10. Crescent Park
State Street at Lafayette Street**

This sliver of greenspace, once known as Veterans Park, at the crest of the hill overlooking State Street was established in 1864. The public drinking fountain was presented to the city in 1904 by the Women's Christian Temperance Union at a cost of \$850. The memorial in the park was dedicated to Schenectadians who died in America's wars, donated by the American Locomotive Company in 1948 on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the locomotive industry in the city.

**11. St. Joseph Parish
600 State Street**

The town's German Catholics began assembling and planning their own church in the late 1850s and after Joseph Harreker purchased an old frame church on Center Street with his own \$2000 at sheriff's sale, St. Joseph's Church was formally dedicated in his honor on June 29, 1862. It served the budding congregation until the cornerstone for this Gothic brick church, designed by Marcus Cummings of Troy, was laid on the afternoon of July 29, 1877. With proper ceremony, the new meetinghouse was dedicated on March 3, 1878.

**12. Schenectady County Courthouse
612 State Street**

The Neoclassical stone courthouse rose behind a parade of fluted Corinthian columns in 1913. It replaced a Greek Revival courthouse with fluted Doric columns that still stands in the city's historic district. Tucked into 108 Union Street, it was constructed in 1831.

TURN LEFT ON NOTT TERRACE.
TURN RIGHT ON NOTT TERRACE
HEIGHTS.

**13. Schenectady Museum & Suits-Bueche Planetarium
15 Nott Terrace Heights**

Founded in 1934, the museum had its quarters in the one-time County Poor House until its new building opened in 1967. The Suits-Bueche Planetarium has the only GOTO Star Projector in the entire Northeast. The Museum houses the GE Photograph collection, with more than 1.6 million prints and negatives.

WALK BACK OUT TO NOTT TERRACE AND TURN RIGHT. TURN RIGHT ON UNION STREET.

**14. St. John The Evangelist Church
812 Union Street**

St. John the Evangelist Church was built in 1904 and was the first church of its size and elegance to be built in this part of the country. Designed by architect Edward W. Loth, its high, sharp-pointed arches and gables and clustered columns stamp its architecture as unmistakably Gothic. The altitude from the ground to the ball surmounting the spire and is 220 feet. The 12-sided central tower lords over 12-sided smaller towers, one at each corner of the building, spanning a height of 120 feet.

The French Second Empire mansion at #802 that serves as the church rectory was constructed by John C. Ellis, president of the Schenectady Locomotive Works, later to become the internationally known American Locomotive Company. After Ellis chose Union Street as the location for his palatial residence he establishing the precedent for upper Union Street's development during the forthcoming five decades as an elegant residential neighborhood.

TURN AROUND AND WALK DOWN UNION STREET, CROSSING NOTT TERRACE.

**15. Webster House
Union Street at northeast corner of Seward Street**

The city's first dedicated library building came by way of a \$50,000 gift from Andrew Carnegie; it was one of more than 2,000 libraries the steel magnate funded around the world. Land was obtained here with a \$15,000 gift from General Electric. The Beaux Arts confection was constructed of slender Roman bricks and boasts a classical rusticated entrance framed by slender Ionic porticos. In a trademark of Carnegie libraries, names of famous literary figures were carved along the facade. At the time of its construction in 1903 there were worries that the library was so far out of town that no one would use it but it served the city until 1973 when it was acquired by Union College and re-fitted as a residence hall. The building honors Harrison Webster, Class of 1868, who was the eighth college president, serving from 1888 until 1894.

TURN LEFT ON CLINTON STREET.

**16. Schenectady County Public Library
99 Clinton Street at Liberty Street**

This is the library that replaced the old Carnegie Library. The Schenectady County Public Library, carrying a \$2 million price tag, was dedicated on April 7, 1969 after two years of construction. Local architects Feibes, Schmitt and Associates shepherded the brick, concrete and glass structure to completion, laying out over an acre of floor space.

TURN RIGHT ON LIBERTY STREET.

**17. United States Post Office
Jay Street and Liberty Street**

The first post office in Schenectady was established in 1793. Home delivery did not begin for another 100 years and townfolk followed the post office as it bounced around the city. The first permanent post office was built here in 1912, in the Neoclassical style popular for similar projects coming to fruition around America at that time. In 1933 the post office received a massive extension that came near to filling the entire block. The

rectangular building is faced in limestone on the south and west with yellow brick elsewhere. A central pavilion is flanked by north and south wings, the latter of which is the main entrance. Both wings have round-arched windows divided by partially engaged Ionic columns. The former main entrance, on the Liberty Street side, has free-standing Corinthian columns. At the cornice is a balustrade.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Seneca Falls



A Walking Tour of Seneca Falls...

Today Seneca Falls is known as the birthplace of the struggle for women's rights that began in earnest in America in the 1840s but in the 19th century the town was known for the industry that was powered by those namesake falls. Job Smith is accepted as the first white settler in the area, arriving in 1787 where he set up a portage business for travelers to get around the series of rapids that tumbled some forty feet in the course of about a mile on the Seneca River. The Bayard Land Company was formed to exploit the power pent up in the rushing waters with the industrious Wilhelmus Mynderse serving as the concern's resident business agent. Mynderse located here permanently in 1795 and soon had a grist mill in operation. Other mills and dams and the Seneca and Cayuga Canal would follow as he carved the most lasting legacy in the village's history. The settlement was called Mynderse Mills for a time before the village was incorporated in 1831. In a few more years Seneca Falls was the third largest flour milling center in the world.

The water was also powering tanneries and distilleries and woolen mills. The most important technology developed along the Seneca River involved pumps and hydraulic engines. The town became known the world over for the quality of its water pumps and when the Silsby Manufacturing Company applied the technology to design and build their first Steam Fire Engine in 1856 Seneca Falls staked a claim as the "fire engine capital of the world."

The go-go days of the 19th century began to come to an end in 1890 when the business district was decimated by fire. Then New York State decided to convert the old Erie Canal into the Erie Barge Canal which would modernize the old canal beds and locks and accommodate larger tonnage vessels and motorized propulsion. In Seneca Falls, the new, larger channel and locks required more water, to supply the forty-nine foot lift of the proposed locks. Sixty residential and 116 commercial buildings were torn down including the Goulds Manufacturing Company, Rumsey Pumps, and American LaFrance.

Seneca Falls' industrial heritage began to recede from the public imagination. History books written in the 1930s scarcely made mention of it. Instead, an event that took place back in 1848 in a small brick chapel began to gain magnified importance in the story of women in America. Henry and Elizabeth Cady Stanton had moved to Seneca Falls in 1847 from Boston and she became increasingly involved in the community to combat the dearth of big-city intellectual stimulation she had known in Massachusetts. She had been exposed to social reform through her cousin, abolitionist Gerrit Smith and Quaker friend Lucretia Mott. While traveling together to London for a World Anti-Slavery Convention in 1840 the two women talked about holding a similar gathering for women's rights. Eight years later, on July 19 and 20, 1848, Mott, Stanton, Mary Ann M'Clintock, Martha Coffin Wright, and Jane Hunt acted on this idea when they organized the First Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls. Some 300 people attended and at the end of the two days, 100 people made a public commitment to work together to improve women's quality of life. Today that beginning is celebrated at the Womens Rights National Historical Park and that is where we will begin our tour, next to the visitor center...

1. Women's Interfaith Institute
140 Fall Street

This Romanesque church was constructed in the early 1870s when the congregation moved over from its chapel. In 2003 the sanctuary was purchased by the Women's Interfaith Institute, founded in the Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts in 1992 under the leadership of Dr. Allison Stokes. On March 5th, 2009, three days after renovations on the Great Hall, the building was struck by fire; it was saved by firefighters from nine companies.

TURN AND WALK TO THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE VISITOR CENTER,
DOWN TO THE CORNER OF
MYNDERSE STREET.

2. Wesleyan Methodist Church
northwest corner of Mynderse Street and
Fall Street

This is the site of the First Women's Rights Convention on July 19 and 20, 1848, although it would not be recognizable to any of the attendees today. A small red brick chapel had been constructed in 1843 for a congregation that began that year with 26 members. The work was completed in October for a cost of \$1,770. The church rapidly became a local gathering spot for antislavery activity, political rallies, and free speech events. The congregation sold the building in 1871 and it was enlarged and extensively altered by subsequent owners, losing all ecclesiastical functions as it housed a theater, store and an automobile showroom. When the site was purchased by the National Park Service in 1985 the birthplace of women's rights in America was serving as a coin-operated laundry. The building was rehabilitated using a bit of the original walls in 2009.

CONTINUE WALKING
EAST ON FALL STREET.

3. Hotel Clarence
108 Fall Street at State Street

The Goulds Manufacturing Company financed the construction of a Spanish-style first-class hotel in town in 1919. The four-story fireproof brick hotel rose on the site of the former Hoag House that burned on Thanksgiving morning, 1918. George B. Post & Son of New York City drew up the plans for the Gould Hotel that featured 72 rooms and eight apartments, fifty of which were equipped with baths, hot and cold water and telephone connections - all amenities that travelers expected only in big cities in 1920. After a recent six-million dollar makeover the hotel has re-opened as the Hotel Clarence, named for the angel in *It's A Wonderful Life*; Seneca Falls fancies itself as the model for the movie's fictional small town of Bedford Falls.

TURN RIGHT ON WATER STREET
AND WALK DOWN TO THE WATER.

4. Cayuga-Seneca Canal
Water Street

The original falls of the Seneca River were a series of rapids that tumbled over forty feet in the course of a mile. The first settlers dammed the rapids to create three falls, concentrating the surge of the water that was used to power early industry. To enable navigation on the river the Cayuga-Seneca Canal opened in 1817, eight years before the Erie Canal was completed. It was joined to the Erie Canal in 1828.

In 1914 New York State decided to enlarge the Erie Canal system to accommodate bigger boats. The Seneca River was dammed and crews tore down the canal walls and buildings on the islands in the river. They then deepened the riverbed and built new, wider retaining walls. When water rushed in to fill the new canal in 1915, Seneca Falls disappeared.

**5. Seneca Knitting Mills
across Cayuga-Seneca Canal**

The first knitting mill appeared in Seneca Falls in 1830 and this massive three-story stone Seneca Woolen Mill, the sole survivor of the town's days at the center of the Industrial Revolution, was constructed in 1844. The Seneca Knitting Mill company came along in 1860 with Seabury S. Gould at its head. After 155 years the mills sputtered to a close in 1999. One of the few extant examples of a large intact mill of its era, the building is slated to be the home of the National Women's Hall of Fame.

**WALK BACK UP TO FALL STREET
AND TURN RIGHT, CONTINUING
TO WALK EAST.**

**6. Partridge Building
115 Fall Street**

Born in Connecticut in 1797, Erastus Partridge migrated to Cayuga when he was 23 and engaged in the mercantile business. His store expanded to the point that he opened a banking and exchange office in one corner in 1837. The financial business would evolve into the Bank of Seneca Falls with Erastus as president and his son LeRoy as cashier. Partridge died in 1873. The fire that leveled Seneca Falls in 1890 claimed the Partridge Building that was rebuilt in 1894 with a mansard roof and a landmark central clock tower. Fire struck again in 1988 and the more restrained current appearance followed.

**7. Seneca Museum of Waterways
and Industry
89 Fall Street**

The Fall Street business district is largely the product of the rebuilding which followed the fires of 1859 and 1890. The Romanesque style was in vogue after the 1890 conflagration so the influence of arches and decorative brickwork is much in evidence. This was once a men's clothing store and now houses a museum dedicated to the rise of industry in 19th century Seneca Falls.

**8. Seneca Falls Savings Bank
76 Fall Street**

Seneca County's first savings bank was authorized in 1861 and organized in 1870. The first deposit was taken on August 8, 1871 - the minimum deposit being \$1.00. Jacob P. Chamberlain served as the first president. The bank spent most of the 20th century in this Neoclassical vault, fronted by twin fluted Doric columns. It was purchased in 1979 as the home of the Women's Hall of Fame.

**9. The State Bank of Seneca Falls
54 Fall Street**

If this corner building doesn't quite look like a bank it may be because it began life as the rambling Seneca Falls Hotel in 1798, modeled after a New England inn. It would later be torn down in 1858 and rebuilt as the Stanton House. In 1920 the three-story brick Italianate guest house was given a Neoclassical facelift for The State Bank of Seneca Falls, the successor to Erastus Partridge's bank started in his store in 1837.

**10. SL DuVall Goldsmith
28 Fall Street**

Downtown Seneca Falls was once lined with Federal and Greek Revival buildings from the 1820s and 1830s. Few survive today but this small red brick structure, lying just outside the main business district, has been here since around 1830 when it was built by David B. Lum as his hat shop. Lum wrote the first history of the town, chronicling events through 1875.

**11. Trinity Episcopal Church
27 Fall Street**

The parish was established in 1831, a year after a small group of Episcopalians began meeting in the store of Eleazer Hills and Everard Peck. In 1834 a house of worship was constructed across the canal at the corner of Bayard and Ovid streets. The cornerstone for the current church was laid on December 19, 1885. The Troy architectural firm of Brown & Dawson contributed the plans for the mixed Gothic and early English meeting house and blue limestone quarried in the

town of Fayette was carted in for its construction. The building was trimmed in Onondaga limestone. The bell, altar and choir window were transported across the water from the old church. The final price tag for the new Trinity Episcopal was \$40,000 and the first services were held here on Easter Sunday, April 24, 1886. Three of the stained glass windows were executed in the studio of Louis Comfort Tiffany, whose art glass studio was the busiest in America.

TAKE A FEW STEPS BACK TO
CAYUGA STREET AND TURN
RIGHT.

12. First Presbyterian Church
23 Cayuga Street

The first Presbyterian church on this site, a wooden frame affair, was constructed in 1817. Ten years earlier the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls had been formed. The building was sold in 1842 and hauled to State Street where it began a new life as Concert Hall. It was replaced on this site by a brick meetinghouse that served until this English Gothic church with its dual towers came along in the 1870s. The larger of towers rises 166 feet and the northern tower stands 90 feet high. The price tag for the handsome sanctuary was \$60,000.

13. Seabury S. Gould House
28 Cayuga Street

Pump manufacturing in Seneca Falls began in 1839 when Paine and Caldwell began to build wooden pumps in a former cultivator shop on the island between Bridge and Ovid Streets. A year later, Abel Downs began to craft wooden pumps in an old cotton factory and then Cowing and Seymour started churning out pumps from an old clock factory. Unable to keep up, the pioneer Paine & Caldwell soon went out of business. In 1844, Abel Downs and John Wheeler joined forces and two years later they became Downs, Mynderse & Co. In 1848, a 36-year old Connecticut man named Seabury Gould bought into the firm but he wasn't interested in wooden pumps.

Gould cast the world's first all-iron pump that quickly found favor with settlers opening the West and railroads that required water to power

their steam engines. In 1869 as Seabury Gould was transitioning power to his son, the name of the company was changed from Downs & Company to Goulds Manufacturing Company. Goulds became one of the world's largest pump manufacturers and operated independently until selling interests to ITT Industries in 1997 for \$815 million in cash. Seabury S. Gould, who would die in 1886, built the town's finest Italian villa here in 1854; the brick house has been beautifully maintained as it does duty as professional offices.

14. *Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument*
Village Park at Cayuga Street
and Park Street

The granite and bronze monument to Union soldiers and sailors from the Civil War was dedicated on May 30, 1889. The memorial was made possible through a bequest from the estate of Albert Cook, a president of the First National Bank of Seneca Falls.

WALK INTO VILLAGE PARK ON
THE NORTH (RIGHT) SIDE.

15. Mynderse Academy
12 North Park Street

Wilhelmus Mynderse, the earliest resident proprietor of a large portion of the site of Seneca Falls, donated a chunk of his land for the creation of the Seneca Falls Academy in 1832. He also furnished the greater parts of the subscription of \$1,665.32 to construct the first school building. This Colonial Revival structure was the third to handle the educational needs of the village.

WALK OUT TO STATE STREET
AND TURN LEFT.

16. First United Methodist Church
2 Chapel Street at State Street

There is no better indication that Seneca Falls was bursting with wealth following the Civil War than a flurry of church building between 1870 and 1873 that saw four churches raised in the village. This one, with Italianate and Gothic influ-

ences, was constructed in 1872. Methodism had its first stirrings in Seneca Falls in 1812 and in 1829 the group incorporated as the Seneca Falls Methodist Episcopal Church and began work on a meeting house on donated land. The church was remodeled in 1857 and finally torn down in 1871 to make way for the current house of worship.

17. Village Hall

60 State Street at Park Street

In 1841, the first train arrived in Seneca Falls on the Rochester and Auburn Railroad. In 1853 the line was consolidated into the New York Central Railroad which continued to run trains into the village. The passenger station and the freight depot across the street are representative of the High Victorian Italianate style rendered in red brick and sporting single scroll-sawn wooden roof brackets. The beautifully preserved 150-year old railroad buildings have been readapted: the passenger station houses Village Hall and the freight station provides space for small businesses. The buildings served the railroad until 1958 but the track is still active - Seneca Falls is the boarding point for the Finger Lakes Railway scenic railway.

18. United States Post Office

34-42 State Street

The Seneca Falls Post Office, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was designed like so many others in New York State as a Depression-era project in 1932-34. It is irregular in plan, with a "U" shaped, two story main block with a one story interior section, and a one story rear wing with a mailing platform. The facades are clad in buff colored brick and limestone and executed in the Classical Revival style with Art Deco decorative detailing.

**TURN RIGHT ON FALL STREET TO
RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING
POINT AT THE VISITOR CENTER.**

Look Up,

Syracuse



A Walking Tour of Syracuse...

The salt springs that would come to define Syracuse were first discovered by Jesuit missionaries back in the 1650s. But it was not a pretty sight. For as far as the eye could see was dark, impenetrable swampland. Ephraim Webster was the first settler of European descent to try and make a go of it here, establishing a trading post near the mouth of the Onondaga Creek in 1786. James Geddes dug the first salt well in 1794 and ten years later, as a member of the State legislature, he obtained funds to build a 10-mile corduroy road across the marshy land to get the salt out to market and kick-start development in the region. Gradually the swamp was drained and soon the Erie Canal arrived. The canal not only facilitated the shipment of salt from the Onondaga Valley but caused farmers to shift production from wheat to more profitable pork and curing pork required salt. Until the brine fields and wells shut down in the early 1900s, almost all of the salt used in the United States came from “The Salt City.”

By the time the villages of Salina and Syracuse were merged to form the City of Syracuse in 1848 there were enough people living here to immediately make the new city one of the fifteen largest in the country. Salt production had fueled the growth but the industrial base quickly diversified. By 1860 Syracuse had several foundries, machine shops and factories producing agricultural implements, boots and shoes, furniture, saddlery, hardware and silverware. It was said a greater variety of products were coming from the city in the heart of the state than from New York City. Charles Dickens, who gave a reading in the Weiting Opera House in 1869 wrote of his experience in the rapidly growing city, “I am here in a most wonderful out-of-the-world place, which looks as if it had begun to be built yesterday, and were going to be imperfectly knocked together with a nail or two the day after tomorrow.”

Manufacturing drove Syracuse well into the 20th century with the population peaking at 221,000 in 1950. Today’s population is about 2/3 of that but the metropolitan area has a population of over 700,000. Our walking tour will begin in Clinton Square, the historic center of downtown through which the Erie Canal once flowed and nineteenth-century freight and passengers were transferred to a parade of canal boats arriving at the Packet Dock...

**1. *Soldiers and Sailors' Monument*
Clinton Square**

Clinton Square first evolved in the early 1800s when roadways converged in the village. In 1820 the Erie Canal intersected the village crossroads here, and barges unloaded near the old Salina Street Bridge. The *Soldiers and Sailors' Monument* honoring Syracuse and Onondaga County Civil War veterans was dedicated on the square in 1910. The Beaux Arts monument was crafted by Clarence Howard Blackwell; the bronze sculptural groups by sculptor Cyrus E. Dallin weren't ready for the dedication but were installed shortly afterwards.

WALK OVER TO THE MONUMENT
ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER
OF THE SQUARE AND BEGIN
WALKING CLOCKWISE AROUND
THE SQUARE.

**2. *Jerry Rescue Monument*
southwest corner of Clinton Square**

On October 1, 1851 Syracuse played host to the New York State Convention of the anti-slavery Liberty Party. Months earlier, Secretary of State Daniel Webster spoke in the city and promised that the new - and controversial - Fugitive Slave Law would be enforced in abolition-friendly enclaves such as Syracuse. He made good on his vow during the convention when federal marshals, accompanied by local gendarmes, arrested a man who called himself Jerry, who was working making salt barrels. The initial charge was thievery but it was soon discovered that Jerry, also known as William Henry, was apprehended as an escaped slave. An alarmed crowd of abolitionists assembled and battered down the door of the city jail to free Jerry, who was spirited across Lake Ontario into Canada. Nineteen indictments were returned against the rescuers but, despite many public admissions, there was only one conviction and that man died before his case could be heard on appeal. The event was commemorated right from the start around Syracuse; a four-story brick building was renamed the Jerry Rescue Building and after it was razed the story lived on in this 1990 memorial.

**3. *Clinton Exchange*
4 Clinton Square**

This Neoclassical structure looks out onto Clinton Square through a gently curving portico of stout Doric columns. It was constructed in 1928 to serve several federal masters, the city's main post office and a district court foremost among them. It has since been transferred to private ownership.

**4. *Post-Standard Building*
Clinton Square**

Vivus W. Smith came on board the six-year old *Onondaga Journal* in 1827 in Onondaga Hill and two years later removed the newspaper to Syracuse where he merged its efforts with John W. Wyman's *Syracuse Advertiser*. On September 10, 1829 the first edition of the newly combined paper hit the streets as the *Onondaga Standard*. The *Syracuse Post* first appeared in 1894 and quickly gained traction, so much so that when the papers merged on New Year's Day 1899 it became the *Post-Standard*. While the *Post-Standard* at the time was able to boast of a greater circulation "than any other daily paper between Greater New York and Rochester" the city was being served by other papers as well. There was the *Syracuse Journal* and the *Evening Herald* that merged in 1939 on the centennial anniversary of the *Herald* and William Randolph Hearst was in town with the *Herald American*. All were purchased in 1944 by Samuel I. Newhouse and known collectively as the Syracuse Newspapers. The newspapers continued on independently aside from ownership until the *Herald-Journal* folded in 2001, leaving only the *Post-Standard* to soldier on.

**5. *Third National Bank*
107 James Street at Clinton Square**

Archimedes Russell, one of Syracuse's busiest architects through the Gilded Age blended Trenton pressed brick and Carlisle red sandstone for this Queen Anne vault in 1885. He gave the roofline a parade of steeply pitched gables and a flurry of ornamental touches. Third National Bank picked up its charter in 1864.

6. Syracuse Savings Bank Building
102 North Salina Street at Clinton Square

Syracuse Savings Bank took its first deposits in 1849 with Syracuse mayor Harvey Baldwin at the head of the organization. Progress at the bank was steady until twenty-five years later it was ready to do something big. A stiff design competition for a new headquarters yielded a local architect, Joseph Lyman Silsbee. Silsbee was only 26 and this was his first major commission but the bank was willing to place its \$281,000 bet on his design. Silsbee delivered a variation of High Victorian Gothic richly decorated with bands of red sandstone interspersed with pale buff Ohio sandstone. The 170-foot tall tower, hard by the Erie Canal, was the tallest building in Syracuse. The new bank was ready in 1876. It was the first office building in the city to be built with a passenger elevator and visitors could take a trip to the top for a dime. Silsbee set up shop himself on the top floor and remained until the 1880s when his burgeoning career took him to Chicago where he would employ Frank Lloyd Wright for a time. Syracuse Savings Bank stayed a century longer before it was swallowed by the Fleet/Norstar Financial Group in 1987.

7. Onondaga County Savings Bank (Gridley) Building
101 East Water Street

This is the oldest of the three grand old bank buildings that form the eastern wall of Clinton Square, constructed in 1869 for the Onondaga County Savings Bank. Architect Horatio N. White used the popular French Second Empire style of the day, distinguished by its elaborate mansard roofline. The entire building was constructed with Onondaga limestone. Typical of commercial buildings along the Erie Canal, the side facing the water is bereft of ornamentation. After the bank moved across the street in 1897 the building was sold to businessman Frances Gridley. In the 1970s the century-old bank with its landmark four-faced clock tower staved off execution and became a pioneer in adaptive re-use in Syracuse.

8. Onondaga Savings Bank
101 South Salina Street at East Water Street

This ten-story Renaissance-inspired structure was one of Syracuse's first steel frame skyscrapers when it appeared on the streetscape in 1897. The architect was English-born Robert Gibson who began his career by besting the legendary Henry Hobson Richardson for the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany but the star of the former bank is its richly ornate interior created by Angelo Magnanti, who did the inside work on the United States Supreme Court Building. The ceiling was painted as a Depression-era public works project by William Schwartz, a local artist, with a replica of an Old World astronomer's map. He added a series of ten arched murals depicting important events in the history of Onondaga County.

TURN LEFT AND EXIT CLINTON SQUARE ON EAST WATER STREET AND WALK INTO HANOVER SQUARE.

9. Gere Bank Building
121 East Water Street

Charles Erastus Colton was among the city's finest architects and this is among his finest buildings. Built in 1894, Colton's design was an adaptation of the popular trend for skyscrapers of the day that approximated the look of a classical column with an ornate base (the ground floors), a relatively unadorned shaft (the middle floors) and a crown (the cornice). It was built as a bank for former mayor and then United States Congressman James J. Belden who then named it after his father-in-law, Robert Gere.

10. Phoenix Buildings
123-129 East Water Street

Several stripped-down Greek Revival commercial buildings from the 1830s survive on Hanover Square. These old brick canal warehouses were known as the Phoenix Buildings since they rose from the ashes of earlier wooden structures on the site.

WALK OVER TO GENESEE
STREET THAT SLICES THROUGH
HANOVER SQUARE AT AN ANGLE.

11. Flagship Securities Building
120 East Genesee Street

Built for the defunct Bank of Syracuse in 1896, this was the first steel-frame structure to rise in the city. Local architect Albert L. Brockway was a student of the influential École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France and he provided the bank with a highly ornate marble facade. Hidden in the pedimented entranceways on either side are replicas of coins from the the 2,700-year old Greek showcase city of Syracuse now in modern-day Sicily.

12. Post Standard Building
136 East Genesee Street

This 1880 building was taken over by the newly merged *Syracuse Post-Standard* in 1899. Its Romanesque influences can be detected in its dominant arch and fenestration.

13. Larned Building
114 South Warren Street at
Genesee Street

This brick office block was one of Syracuse's most desirable business addresses after it was finished in the fashionable French Second Empire style in 1869. The structure was originally crowned with a tell-tale mansard roof but it was later converted into a full floor; the Second Empire style can still be discerned, however, from the ornate cast-iron window caps. The building was designed by Horatio Nelson White for the sons of Captain Samuel Larned who made a fortune on the Erie Canal and built a hotel on this site in 1830; it would be destroyed by fire. In 1990, a crumbling Larned Building was converted into a parking garage with retail space on the ground floor while retaining the facade.

14. S.A. & K. Building
201 E Washington Street at Warren
and Genesee streets

This triangular flatiron-style building was constructed with four floors by Amos Phelps Granger, a captain in the War of 1812 and a United States Congressman. Phelps died in 1866 at the age of 77, however, and did not see the completion of what became known as the Granger Block. In the 1890s an additional three stories were added to the Renaissance Revival office building - the new floors can easily be picked out today by the dividing belt course and the different window treatment. In 1898 the law firm of Sedgwick, Andrews & Kennedy purchased the building, and it became known as the S.A. & K. Building and is today a municipally owned property called City Hall Commons.

TURN LEFT ON WARREN STREET
AT THE END OF HANOVER
SQUARE.

15. State Tower Building
109 South Warren Street

Here is the tallest building in the city and Syracuse's finest Art Deco structure. The verticality of the 23-story office building is emphasized with vertical stripes of windows and the top floors of the 312-foot skyscraper are arranged in a series of setbacks. Brass and ceramic chevrons decorate the entrance. The architectural firm of Thompson and Churchill came out from New York City to direct the construction of the tower that was completed in 1928.

16. Grange Building
203 East Water Street at Warren Street

This four-story brown brick building was built in 1925 as an early automobile dealership, displaying cars for Bresee Chevrolet that had started in business in 1922. The dealership remains active today in Liverpool.

CONTINUE A SHORT BLOCK TO ERIE BOULEVARD AND TURN RIGHT. WALK ONE BLOCK TO MONTGOMERY STREET.

17. Erie Canal Museum
318 Erie Boulevard East at
Montgomery Street

The original Erie Canal ran through the heart of Syracuse. Today the historic waterway is Erie Boulevard and the Greek Revival building that stands at its edge dates to 1850. In its day, boats and barges were weighed and inspected here to determine tolls; they rested on a scale while the water was drained from the lock. Tolls were abolished in 1883 but the lock was still used for dry dock repairs and the weighlock building utilized as a canal office. Since 1962 the brick structure, the last of seven weighlocks on the canal, has done duty as the Erie Canal Museum.

18. Bullhead Boat
318 Erie Boulevard East at
Montgomery Street

Boats that plied the Erie Canal were designed according to their function. Narrow packet boats carried only passengers. This bullhead boat carried perishable items and was suitable to withstand the pounding of waves on the Great Lakes. They were powered by animals on the canal and tugs on the open water. Nathan Roberts was a celebrated canal engineer responsible for building five double locks in Lockport that required using a new blasting powder from the DuPont Company to conquer the rock walls of western New York.

TURN RIGHT ON MONTGOMERY STREET.

19. City Hall
233 East Washington Street at
Montgomery Street

After being incorporated as a city in 1848 market stalls were converted into municipal offices and this arrangement served as City Hall for the next 40 years. In anticipation of a new facility a design competition was held in 1889

with eight local architects submitting plans; Charles E. Colton won. He borrowed heavily from the concepts of Henry Hobson Richardson, America's most influential architect of the late 1800s, by adapting a medieval Romanesque style with rough-cut limestone, truncated pillars, triple arches and a dominant tower. City Hall has undergone relatively few changes over the years, although the main entrance has switched sides since it originally faced the Erie Canal.

20. Hills Building
217 Montgomery Street

In the 1920s, following a building boom of skyscrapers for 25 years in New York City, builders were required to outfit their high rises with roofline setbacks to allow sunlight to reach the sidewalks of the urban canyons. The technique most famously manifested itself in the Empire State Building and Chrysler Building. The Hills Building, designed by Melvin King in the Gothic style and erected in 1928, is a local example of a 12-story building using setbacks. It carries the name of Clarence Hills, one of the town's leading real estate developer in the early 1900s. Look up on the south facade to see Syracuse's best gargoyle.

21. St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral
310 Montgomery Street at Fayette Street

This is the third meetinghouse for the congregation that organized in 1826, all located within an area of two blocks. English-born architect Henry Dudley, known as a champion of the English Gothic style, created one of his most noteworthy churches here in 1885. Constructed of gray Onondaga limestone, the composition is topped by a 225-foot spire surmounted by a seven-foot cross. The church, little altered since its inception, was designated a cathedral in 1972.

22. Onondaga Historical Association Museum
321 Montgomery Street

This handsome five-story red brick building was an early home of the telephone company; the fifth floor was occupied by the telephone operators and switchboards. Henry Wilkenson

provided the Italian Renaissance design. Since 1906 it has served as the headquarters for the Onondaga Historical Association with one of the nation's largest regional collections.

**23. Onondaga County Public Library
335 Montgomery Street**

Steel tycoon Andrew Carnegie funded the building of more than 2,500 libraries in the early 1900s and this was one of them. Carnegie's gift of \$200,000 enabled local architect James A. Randall to use loads of granite and Italian marble in his Baroque Revival creation. The first books were checked out in 1905 and the building served for a century as the flagship of the library system before the collection was moved to the Galleries of Syracuse.

**24. First Baptist Church/Mizpah Tower
215 East Jefferson Street at
Montgomery Street**

The Baptists organized in Syracuse in 1821, eventually evolving into the First Baptist and Central Baptist congregations. The two consolidated in 1910 and Gordon Wright designed this English Gothic church that was ready two years later. Wright used Canterbury Cathedral as his inspiration and gave the church a prominent corner tower with elaborate tracery and pinnacles. The three floors above the church were originally connected to the YMCA building next door. In the 1940s the connection was closed and the space converted into a regular hotel. The church eventually assumed management of the commercial enterprise as well, naming it the Mizpah Tower, said to mean "temporary rest under the tower." The First Baptist congregation departed in 1988 and the building has dodged destruction awaiting re-purposing.

**WALK ACROSS INTO
COLUMBUS CIRCLE.**

**25. Columbus Statue and Fountain
Columbus Circle**

When this 11-foot bronze rendering of Christopher Columbus was unveiled in 1934 it attracted a crowd of 40,000 people. Donated

by Italian societies throughout the city, the statue was sculpted in Florence, Italy by Lorenzo Baldi. Dwight James Baur, who supervised the entire project, created the fountain. The Genoan explorer faces west as he did when he sailed to America.

**26. Fourth County Courthouse
421 Montgomery Street on
Columbus Circle**

This monumental Beaux Arts structure of stone and marble occupies an entire block. The cornerstone was laid in 1904 and proceeded on plans drawn by Syracuse architects Archimedes Russell and Melvin King who provided for a classical projecting portico, a balustraded roof and a copper dome on top. Four murals by William Dodge depict incidents in the lives of Onandagan Indians Minnehaha, Hiawatha, Pere LeMoyne and Asa Danforth.

**27. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
258 East Onondaga Street on
Columbus Circle**

The Cathedral traces its beginnings to the formation of the St. Mary's Church in 1841. The Victorian Gothic church constructed of Onondaga limestone came along in 1886. The tower, a later addition by Archimedes Russell, has never actually held a heavy bell but electronic Flemish carillons fill Columbus Square with music. In 1904 St. Mary's was named the Cathedral Church of the Central New York Roman Catholic Diocese.

**LEAVE COLUMBUS CIRCLE
ALONG ONONDAGA STREET
THAT RUNS DIAGONALLY TO THE
SOUTHWEST.**

**28. Plymouth Congregational Church
232 East Onondaga Street**

The congregation formed in 1853 amidst anti-slavery fervor and early pastors Michael Strieby and Augustus Beard, ardent abolitionist both, named the church after Plymouth Church in Brooklyn where the fiery Henry Ward Beecher

was delivering America's most impassioned anti-slavery sermons. The church was constructed in 1859 on plans by architect Horatio N. White. The building has lost its steeple and a quartet of turrets over the years but the elegance of White's design survives.

29. Hotel Syracuse
500 South Warren Street

George B. Post, one of America's leading hotel architects, designed Syracuse's premier guest house in the Neo-Colonial style. When it opened in 1924 the Hotel Syracuse featured 612 rooms and included its own emergency hospital. Retail shops lined the street level and tennis and squash courts were located on the roof. Its fortunes have not been so cheery in the 21st century as the landmark hotel has battled bankruptcy and faces an uncertain future.

TURN RIGHT ON WARREN STREET.

30. Galleries of Syracuse
441 South Salina Street

The centerpiece project of downtown Syracuse's revitalization, the Galleries of Syracuse were created by the architectural firm of King & King, the oldest architectural firm in New York State and the fifth oldest in the country. Founded in 1868, the firm is responsible for the County Courthouse and a number of notable buildings on the Syracuse University campus, including Manly Field House and Bird Library.

31. WFBL Building
431-433 South Warren Street

This splash of sleek Art Deco in downtown Syracuse was once the home of WFBL Radio. The call letters have nothing to do with Syracuse or Central New York but rather stand for "First Broadcast License" as the station was the first FCC-licensed radio station to sign on in central New York in 1922. In 1927 WFBL became one of the 16 charter stations of the CBS Radio Network. The property has not had a regular tenant since the 1980s when Meltzers III restaurant, whose sign is still affixed, departed and is in imminent danger of demolition.

TURN LEFT ON JEFFERSON STREET.
TURN RIGHT ON SALINA STREET
AND WALK A SHORT WAY DOWN.

32. Landmark Theatre
362 South Salina Street

In the Golden Age of silent films in the 1920s movie lovers could walk down Salina Street and sample what was playing at the Empire or the Strand or Keith's or Temple or the Eckel. Marcus Loew wanted a piece of the action but when a deal for the Empire Theatre fell through he set out to build the city's largest theater with 3,000 seats and an eight-story office tower. He spent \$1.9 million for the land and another \$1.4 million for Syracuse's "last word in theatrical ornateness and luxuriousness." He hired the country's leading theater architect, Thomas Lamb (he had already done three theaters on Salina Street), to transport the movie goer into an exotic world with a wealth of colors and materials – marble, terrazzo, tapestries, filigial chandeliers, and expensive furnishings. Loew's State Theatre opened in 1928 and would thrill patrons for almost a half-century before it went the way of most downtown movie palaces and closed in 1975 - but not before a Citizen's Committee to Save Loew's was formed. The Syracuse Area Landmark Theatre, or SALT, was formed to preserve and renovate the venue and has done so ever since.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO
JEFFERSON STREET AND TURN
RIGHT.

33. Jefferson Street Armory
Armory Square

Abraham Walton was the first person to own this land, ponying up \$6,550 for 250 acres in this area in 1804 that came to be known as the Walton tract. Walton built a millpond here that was eventually filled in to get rid of mosquitoes and became Jefferson Park. And in 1859 it became an armory designed by Horatio White to house troops destined for the Civil War. When the armory burned White designed a second in 1874 and today is actually three buildings used to quarter the cavalry and the infantry. By 1900

the area was teeming with activity with more than twenty hotels in the neighborhood catering to the business brought in by the railroads. With the demise of train travel after World War II the hotels left and many buildings were vacated or dismantled. But many remain and they have been revived as restaurants and specialty shops making Armory Square one of New York State's best successes of urban renaissance.

LEAVE ARMORY SQUARE TO THE
NORTH ON FRANKLIN STREET.

34. Shot Clock Monument **Armory Square**

This clock honors the rule that changed basketball and saved the National Basketball Association. The 24-second shot clock, which put an end to stalling tactics that were threatening the league, was used for the first time in an NBA scrimmage organized by Danny Biasone on August 10, 1954 at Blodgett Vocational High School in Syracuse. In the first year with the clock, league scoring would rise by 13.6 points per game.

Coach Howard Hobson of Oregon and Yale is credited with the original idea, and many helped Biasone to bring the clock to fruition in Syracuse, notably Emil Barboni and Leo Ferris. It was Ferris and Biasone who devised a formula for the shot clock, selecting "24" by dividing 2,880 (the number of seconds in a 48-minute game) by 120 (the average number of shots in a game). The original shot clock is at LeMoyne College; it is 25% smaller in size with one clock face.

The league that the shot clock saved had begun with several franchises in medium-sized cities, of which Syracuse was one. In the first year after the shot clock had been installed, the Syracuse Nationals, led by all-time forward Dolph Schayes, won the NBA championship. In 1963 the Nats departed for Philadelphia, the last of the small markets to surrender its team to the big city.

TURN RIGHT ON WALTON STREET.

35. Bentley-Settle Building **120-124 Walton Street**

This six-story 1895 brick warehouse was constructed for the use of R.E. Bentley's wholesale grocer business. The trade continued until 1973 when the building, sporting fine ornamental brickwork, was converted into artist studios.

36. Neal & Hyde Building **318 South Clinton Street**

Roger Starr Sperry, William Neal and Salem Hyde joined forces to pick up the pieces of Charles Chadwick's dry goods and notions business after Chadwick passed in 1878. Local architect Asa Merrick designed this warehouse for the new firm in 1883 with wide, beefy arches and rough-faced stone trim characteristic of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Still an impressive edifice it was once even more so - soaring gable towers were excoriated from the roofline in the mid-1900s. William Neal's wife, Harriet, was the sister of L. Frank Baum, creator of the "The Wizard of Oz."

37. Donohue Building **312 South Clinton Street**

Physician Florence Q. Donohue erected this splendid Queen Anne building as an office and a residence in 1885. Scarcely an inch of the arched window-dominated facade is not decorated with either rusticated stone, brick or terra-cotta. After the doctor's death the building did time as a bakery and endured some twenty years of vacancy before being re-adapted.

TURN RIGHT ON FAYETTE STREET.

38. McCarthy Block **217 South Salina Street at** **East Fayette Street**

The great dry goods business of the McCarthy's was the first in Syracuse as Thomas McCarthy won prominence as a merchant and salt manufacturer in 1808. The first McCarthy store in the downtown district was known as the "Mammoth Store." it would burn in 1855. The current McCarthy Block was constructed in 1894 and was considered one of the finest in the

city. The building was named one of the top four buildings to appear in New York State during the 19th century, and was the first fireproof building in Syracuse. If Rip Van Winkle dozed off when the McCarthys sold the building in 1905 opened and awoke today he would not notice much change. But for many years the building was clad in white panels as it operated as Hunter Tappen, and later as the Lincoln Department Store. Only a complete renovation in the 1990s allowed the classic brick architecture and ornate window treatments to emerge again.

CONTINUE ONE MORE BLOCK AND
TURN LEFT ON WARREN STREET.

39. Key Bank
201 South Warren Street at
Washington Street

This serious looking Neoclassical building with fluted Corinthian pilasters marching around dates to 1914 and masks a colorful history of this site. The first structure here was a frame dwelling built in 1824 by General Jonas Mann. The place was later a saloon operated by a German immigrant named Seigle. On New Year's Day 1844 several toughs from Salina came into the bar, purportedly bent on mischief. A brawl broke out, shots were fired and the Syracuse Cadets, the local militia, were called to end the row. When the cadets had departed the mob ransacked the house and made a bonfire of all of the furniture; Seigle sold out shortly afterwards and moved on to Milwaukee. The building then became a coffee house, first Welch's and then Cook's, and gained a reputation as the most popular eating house in Syracuse. In 1867 the old building was hauled to the corner of Montgomery and Jackson streets and John Cook erected a hotel in its stead. He named it the Vanderbilt House in honor of the world's richest man, Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt to give the enterprise some hefty street cred. The Commodore was reportedly so well pleased with this honor that he sent Cook a fine engraving of himself that was proudly displayed.

TURN LEFT ON
WASHINGTON STREET.

40. University Block
120 East Washington Street at
South Warren Street

Green & Wicks, Buffalo's most famous architects, came east to build this Renaissance Revival high rise for Syracuse University in 1897. Eliphalet Remington II, whose father's rifles had armed the Union forces in the Civil War, donated the land. The project was intended to be a combined commercial venture and quarters for the University's Law School. The University sold the 142-foot tower in 1973. This block between Warren and Salina streets was the site of first railroad station in Syracuse in what was known as Vanderbilt Square, named for Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt. The depot was demolished in 1870 and a new one constructed two blocks to the west. The railroad tracks would not be removed from Washington Street until 1936.

41. White Memorial Building
201 South Salina Street and
East Washington Street

Horace White was born in nearby Homer on April 19, 1802, and in 1838 moved to Syracuse. His brother Hamilton followed in 1839. Horace was quickly immersed in the Syracuse business community, involved in, among other ventures, the Geddes Coarse Salt Company. He founded the Bank of Syracuse while Hamilton was an officer with the Onondaga County Bank. The Whites both died in the 1860s, leaving behind a legacy of industriousness and generosity that would continue through subsequent generations. The White Memorial Building was built in 1876 by the children of Hamilton and Horace White. Architect Joseph Lyman Silsbee created the great High Victorian Gothic pile of Ohio sandstone and Onondaga granite and brick on one of the most prominent corners in town. A recent restoration removed decades of soot and revealed the decorative bands of red and black that distinguished the multi-use building.

TURN RIGHT ON SALINA STREET AND
CONTINUE ONE MORE BLOCK TO THE
TOUR STARTING POINT IN CLINTON
SQUARE.

Look Up,

Troy



A Walking Tour of Troy...

The flatlands around the head of navigation for the Hudson River were uneventfully farmed by Dutch settlers and their descendants for the better part of 150 years. After the American Revolution one of those farms, the Vanderhyden place, was subdivided into building lots. Streets were laid out in a grid plan based on Philadelphia's and in 1793 the new settlement was designated the Rensselaer County seat. There was a spate of classically-inspired town-naming going on in New York State at the time and the village became Troy.

During the first two decades of the nineteenth century, Troy gained prominence as an exporter of grain and vegetables. In 1822 Henry Burden, a native of Scotland, arrived as superintendent of the Troy Iron and Nail Factory. His inventive mind soon automated work that had previously been done by hand and he soon patented a process for manufacturing iron spikes for the new railroads. In 1835 Burden invented a horseshoe machine that cranked out a horseshoe every second, a technological wonder of the day. Troy had its feet planted firmly in the Industrial Revolution. Foundries were busy churning out stoveplates and casting bells.

Visiting Europe in 1864, Horatio Winslow purchased the rights to manufacture and sell Bessemer steel in the United States and began production at his company's Troy works. Introduction of the metal brought a new order of mass haulage by rail, and Troy became the steel center of the country for a decade before its supremacy was eclipsed by Andrew Carnegie's Pittsburgh mills.

In the 1820s a local housewife, Hannah Lord Montague, wearied of washing her husband's entire shirts when only the collar was dirty so she cut them off and started a new industry. Ebenezer Brown began the manufacture of detachable collars in 1829 and in 1834 Lyman Bennett opened the first successful collar factory. And Troy had a new moniker: "Collar City." While Troy's industries were propelling it to the first rank of American cities it was also a leader in education. Under the patronage of Stephen van Rensselaer, Troy was the home of the first strictly scientific academic institution in the United States, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, founded in 1824, and Emma Willard was a national leader in the education of women, establishing some of America's first and most admired women's colleges.

Troy's fall from prosperity mirrored other northern cities in the post-World War II period. The industries have mostly disappeared but the schools still thrive - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is the city's largest private employer. The population has dwindled to mid-19th century levels and that suits the streetscape. In 2006, the *New York Times* described the city as having "one of the most perfectly preserved 19th-century downtowns in the United States." Hollywood has found its way to Troy to take advantage of these living set pieces and our walking tour of this by-gone world will begin with a statue dedicated to a fictional character, Uncle Sam...

**1. *Uncle Sam*
River Street and Front Street**

In February 1789, Samuel Wilson and his brother Ebenezer left Mason, New Hampshire by foot to seek their fortune in Troy. The two brothers opened a brick factory and were soon in charge of a prosperous and popular enterprise; they were known around town as “Uncle Sam” and “Uncle Eben.” In 1793 the brothers went into the meat-packing business. By 1812, the E. & S. Wilson Company employed 100 people and slaughtered 1,000 heads of cattle weekly and were supplying provisions to the United States Army during the War of 1812.

During the war, so the story goes, the initials of Uncle Sam and United States became entwined by some jokester and Uncle Sam was born as a euphemism for the American government. If Sam Wilson was indeed the original Uncle Sam he didn't apparently know about it. When he died in 1854 none of the newspaper obituaries by Troy writers mentioned the Uncle Sam connection. Two obituaries reprinted from Albany newspapers did, however, talk about Uncle Sam. The most famous depiction of Uncle Sam was a recruiting poster created by James Montgomery Flagg during World War I. The face bears resemblance to the real Samuel Wilson, albeit with facial hair. Whatever the truth in the murky origins, this metal likeness of Samuel Wilson stands as a memorial to Uncle Sam.

WITH YOUR BACK TO UNCLE SAM,
TURN RIGHT AND WALK SOUTH
ON RIVER STREET (THE HUDSON
RIVER WILL BE ON YOUR RIGHT).

**2. *The Market Block*
290 River Street at River and Third streets**

There were three notable public markets in Troy: Fulton Market here was the first, erected in 1841. The first floor was leased to butchers and market men and a large hall on the second floor was used by theater companies. The original Greek Revival styling was updated in the late 1800s to create this three-story flat-iron shaped commercial block.

**3. *National State Bank Building*
297 River Street at Fulton and
Third streets**

This junction housed a public market beginning in 1840. The market burned in 1903 and in its place rose this five-story bank designed by local go-to architect Marcus F. Cummings in the Beaux Arts style. Cummings' design reflects the practice of creating early high-rise buildings to resemble a classical column with a defined base (the rusticated stone first floor), a shaft (the ornate light gold brick middle stories) and a capital (the carved stone cornice). When Troy buildings began being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the National State Bank Building was one of the first recognized, in 1970. The National State Bank was established in 1852 with Ralph J. Starks at its head; it became a national bank in 1865.

**4. *The Frear Building*
2-8 Third Street**

William H. Frear began his business career on March 1, 1859 as a salesman in the dry goods concern of John Flagg. He gradually progressed until he was running “the largest and leading dry goods house north of New York City.” Frear's Bazaar featured 53 departments spreading over 56,000 square feet and employed 300 people. Sales receipts were north of a million dollars per year. In 1904 those receipts funded this splendid Neoclassical emporium, an elegant turn-of-the-century indoor shopping mall with a marble and cast iron stairway, glass dome over the atrium, plasterwork ceilings and cast iron railings throughout. The Frear building has been renovated into an office building for its second 100 years.

WALK STRAIGHT ONTO THIRD
STREET AS RIVER STREET BEARS
RIGHT.

**5. *Masonic Temple*
19 Third Street**

Crafted in the Neoclassical style in 1924, the former Masonic lodge now does duty as a senior center. Prior to 1871 the Masons of Troy leased space on State Street after which it was deter-

mined to construct a dedicated temple. Architects Cummings and Birt of New York City designed a striking five-story structure with a polychromatic Ruskinian-Gothic facade with stores on the ground level and a stained glass window to indicate which of the city's Masons was currently meeting inside. The building burned on February 4, 1924.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS A SHORT DISTANCE TO THE CORNER WITH RIVER STREET AND TURN LEFT.

6. McCarthy Building
255 River Street

When Isaac Keith was dealing furniture out of Peter McCarthy's building and W.A. Sherman was selling stoves and furnaces here back at the turn of the 20th century they could not envision the firestorm that would one day surround their retail establishment. Constructed by Charles P. Bland in 1904, the builder decorated the five-story building with white terra cotta with its most distinctive feature being a two-story carved stone entrance that resembles a proscenium arch across the three-bay facade. In the 1960s the McCarthy Building had an appointment with the wrecking ball but protests from outraged residents spawned a historical preservation movement in Troy and landed the venerable commercial building on the National Register of Historic Places.

WALK ACROSS THE STREET INTO MONUMENT SQUARE.

7. *Soldiers and Sailors' Monument*
Monument Square

This was Washington Square when the *Rensselaer County Soldiers and Sailors Monument* was dedicated on September 15, 1891. The monument was created with a pedestal featuring four bronze tablets, one representing the epic battle of Civil War ironclads, the *USS Monitor* and the *CSS Virginia*, and the other three being representative of the cavalry, artillery and infantry. From the pedestal rose a granite shaft, surrounded by a bronze figure, entitled "The Call to Arms" by

James E. Kelly of New York. The entire height of the monument is 90 feet.

LOOK TO THE EAST ACROSS SECOND STREET.

8. Hendrick Hudson Hotel
200 Broadway at northeast corner of
Second Street

At seven stories, the Roaring Twenties-era Hendrick Hudson Hotel on the east side of Monument Square was the largest building ever built in the city at the time. Crafted of brick and limestone, the hotel was the must-stop location for visiting dignitaries. It soldiers on today as office space.

WALK TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE SQUARE WHERE BROADWAY MEETS SECOND STREET.

9. Cannon Place
1-9 Broadway, south side of
Monument Square

This is the oldest building on Monument Square, erected in 1835 by noted merchant Le Grand Cannon. It is an early work of Alexander Jackson Davis who was to become one of America's leading architects in the next decade. Here Davis and collaborator Ithiel Town, one of the country's first professional architects, built a large-scale commercial building in the Greek Revival style. It stretches 22 bays across the square and stands five stories high, constructed of load-bearing brick. Such massive projects are rare to see today from the 1830s although the roof received a then-fashionable French Second Empire mansard roof after two fires in the 1860s. It still operates as a retail-office building.

EXIT THE SQUARE AND TURN LEFT, CONTINUING DOWN RIVER STREET.

10. Monument Square Apartments
2 First Street at River Street

The Monument Square Apartments began life as the Rensselaer Inn. The angled brick building, designed in a restrained Classical Revival style, was constructed in 1906. Merchant king William Fear, one of the largest landowners in the city, donated the lion's share of the building funds to bring a first class guest house to downtown.

11. Rice Building
216 River Street at First Street

Celebrated architect Calvert Vaux contributed to the design of this landmark commercial building with frontage on River and First streets. The flat-iron shaped, multi-hued structure was raised in 1871 and is a rare example of the High Victorian Gothic style in Troy. The building originally sported a sixth floor crowned by a trio of spires but they were lost in a fire in 1916. During the 1980s the building had been foreclosed for taxes and subsequently sat vacant for over twelve years. Pieces of masonry were detaching from the structure and falling to the street. Demolition appeared imminent but the building was rescued and restored to its post-1916 appearance.

TURN LEFT ON FIRST STREET.
TURN LEFT ON STATE STREET.

12. Christie House
14 State Street at Second Street

John T. Christie was born in Troy in 1853; he was educated in the public schools of Troy and at Troy Conference Seminary at Poultney, Vermont. He was engaged in the flour milling business at Bristol, Vermont, for two years, when, having had his mill destroyed by a flood, he settled in Troy. In 1865 he formed a partnership with Rev. S. Parks, and was for several years engaged in the insurance business as Parks & Christie. Christie continued in the insurance business until 1883, when he disposed of his interest and purchased stock in the Ludlow Valve Manufacturing Company of Troy. In 1891, when that company was reorganized, he was elected president, continuing in that office until his retirement. He had this Romanesque-styled corner building constructed in 1895.

13. Troy Savings Bank Music Hall
32 Second Street at State Street

The Troy Savings Bank took its first deposits in 1823. After decades of conducting business from a series of modest banking offices plans were launched in 1870 for a grand headquarters that would house not only the bank operations but include a music hall on the upper floor. George Browne Post, whose recently constructed eight-story Equitable Life Assurance Society was the first office building in New York City designed to use elevators, won the commission for the new project as his pioneering work with metal framing was the only way to bring the structure in under budget. Post would become renowned for his ornate French Renaissance designs and the Troy Savings Bank was one of his earliest works. When completed in 1875 the final price tag for the massive, six-story bank was \$435,000. Nary a headlining act missed appearing on the celebrated Music Hall stage until the middle of the 20th century. In 1979, a group of private citizens formed the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall Revitalization Committee to restore the community jewel. Meanwhile the bank remained a going concern until 2004 when it was swallowed by First Niagara.

TURN LEFT ON SECOND STREET
AND WALK DOWN HALF A BLOCK.

14. Pioneer Bank
21 Second Street

Formed by a group of printers, the Pioneer Building Loan and Savings Association opened its first bank on River Street in Troy on March 12, 1889. The bank remains independently operated and has been a fixture on this block since 1915. Its Renaissance-inspired home quarters features a rusticated stone base, engaged fluted columns and elaborate stone carvings.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS
TO WALK SOUTH ON SECOND
STREET ACROSS STATE STREET.

15. Paine Mansion
49 Second Street

The Paine family made its money in the Troy Malleable Iron Company, one of the works that helped the city become the second largest producer of iron in America. John W. Paine was admitted as a partner in the concern in 1854. He hired Washington architect P.F. Schneider to design this mansion in 1894. Schneider's adaptation of the Richardsonian Romanesque style with its asymmetrical massing, broad arches fronting a recessed entry, corner tower and colonettes earned it the informal moniker "The Castle." Costing some \$500,000, the limestone-faced house was widely considered the most extravagant private residence in Troy.

After Paine's death the house passed through the family until there were no more heirs. Then it was handed to the butler who willed it to his daughter. Finally it was left to Russell Sage College which used it for awhile and since 1951 it has been the home to the Alpha Tau chapter of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. You might recognize the house from its starring turn in Martin Scorsese's *Age of Innocence*. The director tapped Troy to stand-in for old-time New York City and the Castle played Miriam Margolyes' house in the movie.

16. Hart-Cluett Mansion
57 Second Street

This Federal-style townhouse, faced in limestone and marble, is considered one of the best representations of that era in Troy. Constructed in 1826, the two-story townhouse was a gift of New York City merchant and banker William Howard to his only daughter, Betsey Howard Hart. Betsey had married his friend Richard P. Hart and dad wanted her to have a taste of New York City elegance while living in Troy. Hart would later serve as president of the Schenectady and Troy Railroad and put in a stint as mayor of Troy. In 1892 the family sold it to George Cluett, a local textile magnate. The Cluett family donated the house to the Rensselaer County Historical Society in 1952; today it is operated as a house museum.

17. Rensselaer County Courthouse
80 Second Street at Congress Street

Architect Marcus Cummings was busy on this corner in the 1890s - in addition to the trio of Russell Sage College buildings across the street he designed the county courthouse here in 1894. He gave the building a Classical flavor with rusticated ground floor, a fluted Ionic portico and a richly denticulated roofline with balustrade.

**WALK ACROSS THE STREET ONTO
ROBISON COMMON OF RUSSELL
SAGE COLLEGE.**

18. Russell Sage Hall
Russell Sage College Campus
**Robison Common at Congress and
Second streets**

Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage was the second wife of Russell Sage, New York financier and railroad baron. Sage left his family farm at the age of 15 in 1831 to begin work as an errand boy in his brother's grocery in Troy. He entered politics in Rensselaer County and eventually served two terms in the United States Congress. He subsequently settled in New York City and amassed one of America's greatest fortunes on Wall Street. His first wife died of stomach cancer in 1867. Two years later the 53-year old Sage married Margaret, twelve years his junior. Although the marriage has been depicted as loveless and arranged for appearance's sake, the union lasted until Sage's death in 1906 at the age of 90. His wife inherited his entire fortune of \$70 million; Sage wound up buried alone in a mausoleum in Troy's Oakwood Cemetery.

Margaret Olivia Sage began dispersing her money for the benefit of women's education. A graduate of the Troy Female Seminary, she founded Russell Sage College in the city in 1916, two years before her death. Russell Sage Hall is one of three buildings designed for the seminary by Marcus Cummings in the early 1890s; Plum and Gurley Halls to the rear are the others. It is crafted of golden brick and brownstone and displays classical and Tudor influences.

**19. First Presbyterian Church (Julia Howard Bush Center)
Russell Sage College Campus
Robison Common at Congress and
First streets**

James Harrison Dakin, born in Hudson in 1806, lived only 46 years but carved an important career in early American architecture in the South. Before he left for New Orleans he designed this Greek Revival hexastyle temple in 1835. With its stout fluted Doric columns supporting a full entablature, the building crafted for the First Presbyterian Church is one of the only ten remaining examples of Dakin's Greek Revival style works in the United States. Today it functions as a lecture and performance hall for Russell Sage College.

WALK BACK OVER TO SECOND STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

**20. Troy Public Library
100 Second Street**

The first books were checked out in Troy in 1799. The collection then embarked on a peripatetic existence around town with stops in various houses and businesses. This classical showcase came along to house the collection a hundred years later, in 1897. Designed by New York architects J. Stewart Barney and Henry Otis Chapman, it stands as one of America's earliest examples of the Italian Renaissance style, a return to classicism that would dominate the designs of the nation's public buildings for the next thirty years. The Troy Library sports main facades of gleaming white Vermont marble, exquisite carvings and an original Tiffany window. The funds for the project came from Mary E. Hart in memory of her late husband.

**TURN LEFT ON FERRY STREET.
TURN LEFT ON THIRD STREET
AND CROSS CONGRESS STREET.**

**21. First Baptist Church of Troy
82 Third Street**

Silas Covell hosted the first Baptist gathering in his Troy house in 1793; afterwards he offered his warehouse for regular meetings. In 1796 Jacob D. Van der Heyden conveyed this land for a proper meetinghouse which was constructed over the next few years. Samuel Wilson, "Uncle Sam," supplied the brick used in the building at a cost of \$457.31. The current brick church was erected in 1846 with a spire 177 feet from the ground. In the early 1880s the interior was renovated, the portico lowered and the six Ionic columns on the portico lengthened.

**22. National City Bank
59 Third Street on northwest corner of
State Street**

The National City Bank was established in 1905 and in 1926 the banking house moved into this Neoclassical vault decorated by twin Corinthian pillars and a parade of like pilasters.

**23. St. Paul's Episcopal Church
58 Third Street at State Street**

The first St. Paul's was erected a block away at Third and Congress streets in 1804. The congregation's exploding growth paralleled that of the young city and in 1826 ground was broken for this new house of worship. The church design by contract was intended to be an exact copy of Ithiel Town's Trinity Church in New Haven, Connecticut, a pioneering work in the Gothic Revival style. The two historic buildings are indeed twins, save for the sheathing of locally quarried blue-gray limestone on St. Paul's. In the intervening two centuries changes in New Haven have left the copy more closely resembling the landmark original than the original. Renovations in the 1890s brought stained glass from the studios of America's preeminent art glass designer, Louis Comfort Tiffany.

**TURN RIGHT ON STATE STREET.
TURN LEFT ON FOURTH STREET.**

24. Proctor's Theatre
82 Fourth Street

Entertainment impresario Frederick F. Proctor opened this 2,287-seat vaudeville theater on November 23, 1914. Proctor, who had already built and operated several successful vaudeville theaters in Albany and New York City hired Arlard Johnson to design the theater, hoping to make it his grandest project since he had entered the business nearly three decades before. It cost \$325,000 to construct, and when it opened in 1914 it became the largest theater in the state and was praised as "a structure ranking foremost in American theatrical circles."

Architect Arland W. Johnson gave the five-story building a Neo-Gothic look in gleaming terra cotta to resemble a Medieval cathedral, with details such as gargoyles and masks of drama and comedy. Motion pictures were mixed with the live performances until the 1940s when Proctor's became a movie house only. The grand theater went dark in 1977 and, although it has resisted demolition, it has not found restoration dollars.

25. United States Post Office
400 Broadway at Fourth and
William streets

Postal service was established in Troy in 1796 and operated from many downtown locations until moving into its first permanent home in 1894, one of America's most spectacular post offices - a granite Romanesque Revival building with a clock tower that was a beloved city landmark. Despite local outrage it was torn down in 1934 to begin work on this two-story building that was part of a massive public works initiative during the Great Depression. The stripped-down Classical Revival building was composed of buff-colored brick with limestone trim. At the end bays the frieze is decorated with abstract stars and stripes with winged shields at the corners and inside the post office is graced by murals from Waldo Peirce at either end of the lobby. Peirce hailed from Maine and was sometimes called "the American Renoir." A long-time friend of Ernest Hemingway, his popularity was much greater during his lifetime than his legacy has been after his death in 1970. Troy is one of only three post offices to display his work.

TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY.
TURN LEFT ON FIFTH AVENUE.

26. W. & L.E. Gurley Building
Fifth and Fulton streets

William E. Gurley was born and educated in Troy and went to work as a surveyor in 1839 at the age of 18. In 1845, he went into partnership with Jonas H. Phelps, who had been making surveying instruments since 1838. Gurley's brother Lewis Ephraim joined the shop as an apprentice and in 1852 Phelps sold out his interest and the business was renamed W.& L.E. Gurley. The firm still exists today as Gurley Precision Instruments. The Gurleys' operation was crippled by the Great Troy Fire of 1862 but in just eight months this four-story red brick building rose in its place. The handsome factory, with Romanesque and classically-inspired stylings, is U-shaped around a small courtyard. The building, which has been restored and is a designated National Historic Landmark, also houses the Gurley Museum.

TURN LEFT ON FULTON STREET.

27. Ilium Building
northeast corner of Fulton and
Fourth streets

This five-story structure of buff-colored brick with decorative stone and terra cotta trim has anchored this block for more than 100 years. It was constructed in 1904 by the Ilium Realty Company and designed by the busy local architect Marcus F. Cummings. The Romanesque-flavored building has been preserved in its original form - look up to see carved lion heads in the stone cornice.

TURN RIGHT ON FOURTH STREET.

28. Franklin Plaza
6-12 4th Street at Grand Street

Albany architect Marcus Reynolds designed this banking palace in 1923 for the Manufacturers' National Bank of Troy that had been organized in 1865. The facade is ringed by two-story arched window openings framed by fluted Corinthian pillars. The exterior is composed of Indi-

ana limestone, crowned by a roof balustrade with decorative urns. The interior is executed in rare pink marble. In 1992, the building was restored to its original grandeur to serve as a special events venue.

TURN LEFT ON MUSEUM PLACE
ACROSS FROM FRANKLIN PLAZA
AND TURN LEFT AT RIVER STREET
TO RETURN TO THE TOUR
STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Utica



A Walking Tour of Utica...

Utica's existence has always been tied to transportation, and not because the town lies only 20 miles east of the geographic center of New York state. It was at this point that early travelers could best ford the Mohawk River for miles in either direction. The land was part of a grant of 22,000 acres made by George II of England to William Cosby, governor of the Province of New York in 1734. During the French and Indian War in 1758 the British erected Fort Schuyler near the ford but it was never garrisoned and abandoned after the war. Despite its advantageous location the swampy environs delayed settlement beyond a few traders until the early days of the Republic.

A bridge was constructed across the Mohawk River in 1792 and stagecoaches were running from Albany the next year. One of the first to take advantage of the increased traffic was Moses Bagg who shod horses from his blacksmith shop and operated a much-frequented tavern. Utica's main streets came to radiate away from Baggs' little fiefdom and Bagg's Square would be a focal point of city life for the better part of 200 years until it was obliterated by modern access roads.

No one prospered more from transportation in Utica than John Butterfield, who left his family farm in Berne, New York to come to the nascent village of Utica as a mail carrier. A single trip in a one-horse wagon each week was enough to supply all the demands of the inhabitants. At length with the accumulations of his small earnings, he purchased the right to carry the mail on his own account and was soon able to open a small livery stable and provide a stage service. After the Erie Canal was completed in 1825 Butterfield would move into packet boats and become an early investor in the railroads. In 1850, Butterfield convinced Henry Wells and William Fargo to consolidate their express companies with his own Butterfield & Wasson Company to form the American Express Company, which Butterfield then directed. Butterfield lived at #30 Whitesboro Street, was elected mayor in 1865 and died after a stroke in 1869 at the age of 68.

Meanwhile the textile industry that was to become the backbone of Utica's economy began with the opening of woolen mills in 1847 and cotton mills the following year. But there was also locomotive headlights and firearms and beer and fishing tackle all being produced and shipped from Utica plants. The population would peak at over 100,000 in the 1930s and 1940s when the Utica freight yards were the largest in America east of the Mississippi River.

The early settlement lay wholly south of the Mohawk River, chiefly upon one street, called Main, running parallel with the river. Our walking tour will focus on the Lower Genesee Street Historic District that is the oldest part of the city of Utica as it inched away from the river. Despite extensive alterations and demolition buildings can be found that date to Utica's charter as a city in 1832. But first we'll start at one of those replacement buildings, where decisions affecting the fate of Genesee Street are hatched...

**1. City Hall
1 Kennedy Plaza**

Utica's first right and proper City Hall was constructed in 1852 of yellow bricks in the Italian Renaissance style on plans drawn by Richard Upjohn. Dominated by a tall, square campanile the building stood on the southeast corner of Genesee and Elizabeth streets for 115 years before the elegant City Hall was torn down over the objections of hardly anybody. This is its replacement.

**2. Tower of Hope
1 Kennedy Plaza**

Utica-born Edward Arnold Hanna was elected to two terms as mayor twice, once in the 1970s and again in the 1990s. His administration was among the most active and controversial of recent times, including an appearance on a prime-time CBS News show when he peppered his comments about Utica with four-letter words the network was forced to bleep out. Among his most bewildering legacies is the *Tower of Hope* which he constructed outside City Hall in honor of Bob Hope, who has no particular connection to Utica. Hanna had the carillon in the tower play his favorite tune - "My Way" by Frank Sinatra - on the half-hour.

WITH YOUR BACK TO TOWN
HALL, TURN LEFT ON BROADWAY
AND WALK OVER TO HANNA PARK
DRIVE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
BLOCK. WALK DOWN THE SHORT
HANNA PARK DRIVE TO ITS END
AND TURN RIGHT ON
WASHINGTON STREET.

**3. Westminster Presbyterian Church
714 Washington Street**

This Gothic Revival church was completed in 1855 to replace an earlier church on Devereux Street that was destroyed by fire. The congregation paid \$6,000 for the lot at the head of Washington Street and another \$25,000 for the building.

WALK OUT TO GENESEE STREET
AND TURN LEFT.

**4. Carlile Building
Genesee Street at Washington Street**

Here is an island of hearty 19th century survivors of Utica's urban renewal wars. The block displays a healthy dose of Romanesque arches and is anchored by the city's own flatiron building, the Carlile Building from 1884. Dressed in red brick and terra-cotta, this is one of downtown Utica's most photographed structures.

**5. The Savings Bank of Utica
233 Genesee Street**

Irish-born John C. Devereux arrived in the trading post village on the Mohawk River that was Utica in 1802 and set up a general store. Soon joined by his brother Nicholas the two Devereuxs established a reputation for honesty that was as solid as the new brick store they would build in 1814. Customers began leaving cash in their establishment for safekeeping and the seeds of a savings bank were sown. In 1821 a formal bank was chartered by the state of New York, with John Devereux as president; in 1839 a second charter established the Savings Bank of Utica.

The bank moved into this Italian Renaissance vault in 1898, designed by Robert W. Gibson, an English architect who first made his mark in Albany in the early 1880s. Gibson gave the bank its landmark 52-foot dome covered with 23-karat gold leaf that earned it the popular moniker around town as "The Bank with the Gold Dome." That bank is no longer the Savings Bank of Utica, having been absorbed by M&T Bank in 2007.

**6. Bank of Utica
222 Genesee Street**

The Bank of Utica, family-operated since its founding in 1927, contributed this Art Deco-influenced addition to the Utica streetscape.

**7. Grace Episcopal Church
193 Genesee Street**

Grace Church organized in 1838 with the first services held in a small frame meetinghouse at the corner of Broadway and Columbia streets. The parish was successful enough to acquire this site and begin construction of the current stone church in 1856. The design was supplied by America's leading cheerleader for the Gothic style, Richard Upjohn. The entrance tower, added in 1870, came from the pen of Upjohn's son, Richard M. and a third generation of Upjohns worked on the church in the 1930s when Hobart B. Upjohn directed renovations.

**8. First National Bank Building/
Adirondack Bank Building
185 Genesee Street**

America's foremost designers of bank buildings, York & Sawyer, came to town in 1926 to deliver this 14-story Romanesque-style home for the First National Bank. It features arched windows at the base and attic levels and string courses of corbelled arches. among its more memorable occupants have been WIBX radio that broadcast from its 9th floor studios and Kresge's store that operated on the ground floor. Today the tower has been assumed by Adirondack Bank.

**9. City Center Building/
Fraser's Department Store
173-181 Genesee Street**

Robert Fraser started his career as a merchant in New York Mills by carrying and selling his goods from a pack, going from door to door. In 1876 he came to Utica and began peddling his wares from a storefront across the street. He moved here four years later to establish Fraser's Department Store which came to be hailed as the finest emporium between New York City and Buffalo. Disaster struck on May 10, 1905 when fire broke out in the cotton batting stock in the basement. Within minutes smoke was pouring from every window as clerks and customers made their escape down ladders and across rooftops. There were no casualties but the loss to Fraser's was pegged at \$450,000. Dutifully Fraser had his buyers in New York City the very next day to purchase replace-

ment stock and he was in business again across the street within 30 days. The six-story Fraser's Department Store was rebuilt by March 1907 and would continue in business until 1939. The following year the F.W. Woolworth Company remodeled the lower two floors and began a stay of 50 years. Frank W. Woolworth had launched one of the world's greatest retailing empires, built on nickels and dimes, from a storefront on the corner of Bleecker and Genesee streets back in 1879. Despite a promising start, that store would fail within the year and Woolworth would have to perfect his business model in Lancaster, Pennsylvania before his chain of five-and-dimes returned to Utica.

**10. Hotel Utica
102 Lafayette Street and Seneca Street**

The first guests to the 10-story Renaissance Revival-style Hotel Utica signed the register on March 11, 1912. The hotel was the brainchild of a group of prominent city businessmen who would spend \$610,000 on its construction, causing the *Utica Saturday Globe* to rave, "Its equal does not exist elsewhere in this portion of the State and in some features it surpasses the best in many States. It has been built by Utica contractors and as far as possible Utica material has been used in its construction." The architects were the celebrated Buffalo firm of August Esenwein and James A. Johnson. In the years to come four stories would be added to increase the room total to 250 and the guestbook would swell with such luminaries as Judy Garland, Mae West, Jackie Robinson, Mickey Mantle and the Roosevelts, Franklin and Eleanor. The demand for a world-class downtown hotel in Utica waned over the years and in 1972 the Hotel Utica was converted into a pair of adult care residences. In 2001 a 13 million dollar restoration brought back the crystal chandeliers and rich mahogany interiors and the Hotel Utica became a guest house once again.

THE INTERSECTION OF
LAFAYETTE STREET, GENESEE
STREET AND BLEECKER STREET
WAS HISTORICALLY KNOWN AS
"THE BUSY CORNER." CONTINUE
ON GENESEE STREET.

11. Utica City National Bank/Genesee Tower
110 Genesee Street

Incorporated in 1848, the Utica City National Bank Building, was built in 1902-03 as Utica's first skyscraper. Architect Robert W. Gibson followed the style of the day in composing the tower in the form of a classical column with a distinct base (the architectural embellishments of the lower floors), an unadorned shaft (the middle floors) and a crown (the decorative cornice). In later years it housed the offices of Utica Fire Insurance Company. In its death throes, the building was purchased and redeveloped into 66 apartments for elderly.

TURN RIGHT ON JAY STREET THAT IS THE PARALLEL ROAD SOUTH OF ORISKANY STREET.

12. The *Observer-Dispatch*
221 Oriskany Plaza

Eliasaph Dorchester put out the first issue of the *Utica Weekly Observer*, a single sheet of paper, on January 7, 1817. The *Observer* became a daily newspaper in 1848 and along the way several other publications were melded into what became the *Observer-Dispatch* in 1922. Frank E. Gannett, who founded the Gannett Company best known for *USA Today*, added the paper to his media family the same year. After more than five decades of producing two daily papers – the *Daily Press* (acquired in 1935) in the morning and the *Observer-Dispatch* in the afternoon, the *Observer-Dispatch* emerged in 1987 as a morning daily and the sole editorial voice in Utica. The paper's Oriskany Street complex is located where the original Erie Canal once ran. The current *Observer-Dispatch* building is a product of the 1920s that has seen additions through the years.

TURN RIGHT ON JOHN STREET.

13. St. John's Church
240 Bleecker Street at John Street

With its twin spires this red brick Romanesque church dominated the Utica skyline when it appeared in the 1890s, bolstering a church that had been built in 1869. The first mass took place on Christmas Day of that year. This is the third house of worship for the congregation, following the original in 1820 and a larger structure from 1836.

TURN RIGHT ON ELIZABETH STREET AND WALK DOWN TO THE COURTHOUSE.

14. Oneida County Courthouse
200 Elizabeth Street at Charlotte Street

The first Utica school, courthouse and town hall were all constructed in 1818. A new courthouse on John Street was built to the rear of the old one in 1851. This Neoclassical house of justice was constructed in 1909 over the objections of the County Board of Supervisors which had to be defeated in court to obtain the necessary one million dollars for its completion. The building originally featured Ionic column-supported pediments at either end but they have been removed to expose more of the Palladian windows that march across the facade.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS AND WALK EAST ON ELIZABETH STREET TO JOHN STREET. TURN RIGHT AND WALK TO ITS END AT RUTGER STREET AND CROSS THE ROAD INTO RUTGER PARK, A HALF-BLOCK OFF THE STREET.

15. Munn's Castle
1 Rutger Park

Rutger Park is the architectural showcase of Rutger Street that reflects the prosperity of Utica between 1830 and 1890. Its elegant mansions present a compelling inventory of 19th century American domestic architecture. This splendid Italian villa was created by Alexander Jackson Davis in 1854 and was so well regarded that the architectural plans are in the archives of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The house was built for John Munn, a banker who made his fortune in Mississippi. Munn returned to Utica not only with sacks of money but a southern belle wife, Mary Jane with whom he gained a reputation for entertaining in lavish "southern style." Later occupants included Samuel Remington, whose company supplied pistols for the Union Army in the Civil War. More recently the building did duty as the Dowling Nursing Home before being purchased by the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica in 2008.

16. Miller-Conkling House
3 Rutger Park

The area that is now the park was planned by Judge Morris Miller, private secretary to John Jay, first Chief Justice of the United States. His son Rutger built this house in 1830, the first to be completed in an area so remote from the village at that time it was called "Miller's Folly." The two-story Colonial-style house with a three-bay main section topped by a hip-roof was designed by Philip Hooker who was responsible for nearly every important building in early Albany. The Miller gardens originally covered the entire park but began to be divided into house lots in 1850.

Roscoe Conkling, a 34-year old lawyer, bought the house in 1863. Conkling began a political career as mayor of Utica and eventually wound through the United States House of Representatives and into the Senate. The landmark house retained its glory into the 1950s and is today also a Landmark Society of Greater Utica property.

17. Swancott Home
4 Rutger Park

Egbert Bagg, a civil engineer and land surveyor, built this 18,000 square-foot Italian villa for his home in 1854. When its days as a family residence passed the building served as a home for unwed mothers and the Swancott Home for senior women in 1954.

18. Kinney Mansion
5 Rutger Park

This reddish-brown stone house was built in 1889 for Thomas Kinney in between split terms as mayor of Utica. Local architect Jacob Agne adapted the brawny Romanesque style of Henry Hobson Richardson, the leading architect of post-Civil War America, for the three-story residence. The house was purchased by the Teamsters Union in 1955.

**WALK BACK OUT TO RUTGER
STREET AND TURN LEFT,
WALKING WEST.**

19. Rutger Street

Rutger Bleecher of Albany was the original owner of the land surrounding Rutger Street. But he never lived here. It was his grandson, Rutger Bleecher, who built "Miller's Folly," who began development here. With Rutger Park at its core, many fine homes, most in the popular Italianate villa style of the day, came to Rutger Street. Today these 150-year homes are doing duty as apartments and offices and organizational headquarters. They display varying degrees of upkeep but with minimal alterations most would still be recognizable if their original owners walked this way today.

20. Steuben Park

The properties surrounding this greenspace reflect the opulence of Rutger Park with Italian villas and Queen Anne-style homes from the late 1800s. The three-tiered central fountain that had proved no match for a wayward automobile has recently been replaced.

21. Tabernacle Baptist Church
13 Clark Place at Hopper Street

The first church in Utica was organized by an enthusiastic band of 22 newly arrived Baptist emigrants from Wales on September 12, 1801. The congregation met in a crude log house on Varick Street, near the Globe Mills. In 1819, seventeen persons were dismissed from this church to form the Second Baptist Church of Utica, now the Tabernacle Baptist Church. The reason assigned for this harsh rebuke was ignorance of the Welsh language.

That beginning has spawned a decades-old interest in refugees within the congregation. In 1828, the sent printer Cephas Bennett and his family on a mission to Burma and he subsequently produced the first Burmese bible. For more than a century, Tabernacle had at least one church member serving in Burma and many of the displaced immigrants from some 31 countries who have recently settled in Utica have joined the church.

TURN LEFT ON GENESEE STREET.

22. Stanley Center for the Arts
261 Genesee Street

Jules and Stanley Mastbaum opened their first theater in Philadelphia in 1897. Their entertainment empire expanded to over 250 theaters across the mid-Atlantic, several of which carried the name of the founder. Thomas Lamb, the premier theater architect of the day, with over 300 projects on his resume, was retained to design this movie palace located four blocks south of Utica's then-thriving theatre district in 1927. Lamb's style was to use architectural details to transport patrons to exotic locales of the mind - in the early Hollywood game the ambiance was as important to the movie-going experience as the film. Here, Lamb blended Moorish influences with twisting columns about the stage and a star-spangled ceiling with Mexican motifs in terra-cotta and tiled mosaics. He tied it all together with a rich Baroque interior riddled with angels and cherubs. Opening night was September 10, 1928 with the silent film *Ramona*, the tale of forbidden love on a California sheep ranch, appropriately starring the first Mexican movie star, Dolores Del Rio. But

the Stanley Company was not around to see the curtain go up - three days earlier the entire theater chain was sold to Warner Brothers which has remained affiliated with the theater ever since. The 2,943-seat classic dodged the wrecking ball in the 1970s and today hosts live music acts and performances by the Broadway Theatre League.

**RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO THE
INTERSECTION OF GENESEE
STREET WITH COURT AND
HOPPER STREETS.**

23. New (Green) Century Building
253 Genesee Street

The New Century Club in Utica was one of many progressive upper class women's groups that sprung up across the country in the years approaching 1900, dedicated to social improvement and charity as well as women's suffrage. For many years the organization operated out of this Greek Revival townhouse built in 1826, typical of the architecture found in the then emerging southern end of Genesee Street 175 years ago. Today the house has been claimed as headquarters for the Utica branch of Rust to Green New York State, an academic, citizen, and community collaborative to explore and advance green futures for New York's rust-belt cities.

24. Fort Schuyler Club
254 Genesee Street at Court Street

On April 2, 1883 a covey of Utica "business and professional men" assembled to form a private club and within the year had purchased the John C. Hoyt House at this location. The new club named Horatio Seymour, former Governor of New York State and presidential candidate against General Ulysses S. Grant as their first club President, although he was unable to take an active role in the organization. The original senior membership was limited to 150 - the initiation fee was \$50.00 and the dues were \$40.00 a year. For many years women had to use an area in the back of the clubhouse and were not allowed to walk through the main entrance. In 1981 the membership opened to women and today the private club is 25% female.

TURN LEFT ON COURT STREET.

**25. Bosnian Islamic Association Mosque
306 Court Street at Broadway**

The first Bosnian refugees arrived in Utica in 1993, eventually growing into a community of several thousand. In 2008 the group purchased the crumbling former Central United Methodist Church, whose congregation departed in the 1990s, sparing the City the million-dollar expense of demolishing it. The Bosnian community set out to convert the church into a mosque covering the red bricks with foamboard and gray stucco and converting the steeple into a minaret, the traditional Muslim call to prayer. The job would require a half-million dollars and countless volunteer hours to complete the transformation.

TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY AND
WALK A FEW STEPS TO THE TOUR
STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Watertown



A Walking Tour of Watertown...

Settlers from New England began pushing into the New York wilderness in earnest after the Revolutionary War. Three who made their way here in 1800 - Hart Massey, Henry Coffeen, and Zachariah Butterfield - were attracted by the energetic Black River that promised the potential of power for early industries.

Indeed water-powered mills and factories would soon take their places along the river. In 1805 Jefferson County was founded and Watertown was tabbed as the county seat a decade before the village was incorporated in 1816. When the War of 1812 broke out the bustling village became a center of supplies to the soldiers coming to Lake Ontario. Now as the legal and industrial center of the "North Country," Watertown was on the fast track to becoming a significant city. The progress was slowed by a devastating fire in 1849 that wiped out a large swath of the business district but rebuilding was swift and certain.

Meanwhile the mills and factories hummed along the Black River. Paper-making was important and so was cotton and wool manufacturing. Watertown-manufactured carriages were in demand across the country. The first portable steam engine was developed here in 1847 and the Davis Sewing Machine Company was a big employer as Watertown was incorporated as a city in 1869 and entered into its greatest period of prosperity - one that would last more than fifty years.

Our walking tour will visit many structures from those heady times and we will begin where six roads pour out of and where Watertown history has been made for over 200 years...

1. Public Square
Arsenal Street at Washington and
Court streets

Public Square, first known as the Mall, was deeded by Watertown's early settlers in 1805 as a common reminiscent of the New England greens they knew from their home villages. The grounds were left as an unlandscaped open space for its first fifty years. After crippling fires raced through town, especially in 1849, the square was formally laid out to visually bring the rebuilding central business district together. When Watertown became an incorporated city in 1869, one of the celebration events was the erecting of a cast-iron fountain in the center of Public Square which has a depiction of Xenia, the Greek goddess of hospitality on the top. Its cost was under \$700 and has recently been refurbished.

FROM THE FOUNTAIN AT THE
CENTER OF PUBLIC SQUARE WALK
EAST ON THE ISLAND, TOWARDS
THE CHURCH. ON YOUR LEFT IS...

2. Lincoln Building
89-99 Public Square

This time-worn commercial building began life in 1871 as the Doolittle and Hall Block. In 1908 the three-story, fifteen-bay structure was given a major facelift by Watertown architects Albert and Edwin Charlebois with a glazed white brick facade. In 1919 it was renamed The Lincoln Building in honor of the Lincoln League, a fraternal organization located there.

3. First Baptist Church
207 State Street at Public Square

This is the fourth church for the congregation that organized in 1823. Their first, a wood frame structure, rose in 1828 and was later sold to the town's pioneering Catholic congregation and renamed St. Mary's. After the second wooden church burned in 1846, Otis Wheelock designed a new brick church for the Baptists in the Greek Revival style. In 1891 that building was razed, save for the east and west walls that became the foundation for the present church, crafted of na-

tive gray limestone and blending Romanesque and Gothic detailing. The four-sided clock in the imposing tower is owned and maintained by the City.

FROM THE EAST END OF THE ISLAND, TURN AND WALK BACK TO THE HEAD OF PUBLIC SQUARE, TOWARDS THE MONUMENT. ON YOUR LEFT IS...

4. Burdick Building
112 Franklin Street at Public Square

Nelson Burdick, a carriage manufacturer and mayor of Watertown from 1882-83, constructed this Romanesque-inspired block in 1891. The 18-bay, three-story brick building was one of the lucky ones - it picked up a painstaking restoration in the 1990s.

5. *Soldiers and Sailors' Monument*
Public Square at Washington Street

The monument was dedicated in 1890 after Mr. and Mrs. George Cook spearheaded a fund-raising campaign bolstered by \$10,000 of their own money. The monument was designed by American sculptor Henry Augustus Lukeman and architect Edward Pearce Casey. At the top of a granite pedestal, a figure of a woman holds a wreath of Victory. Near the stepped base stand bronze figures of a Civil War soldier and sailor.

STANDING AT THE WEST END OF
THE ISLAND IN PUBLIC SQUARE,
TO YOUR RIGHT IS...

6. Rothstock Building/Empall's
122 Court Street on Public Square

Frank A. Empsall got his start in retailing in North Adams, Massachusetts where he was the first president of the North Adams Merchants' Association. In 1907 he bought the Roth Dry Goods Store in the Rothstock Building that had been constructed four years earlier as Watertown's first high-rise. Empsall soon liquidated his North Adams assets and settled permanently in Watertown, renovating the Roth Store into Empsall's

Department Store. From the very start it was Watertown's premier emporium billed as "The Store that explains the North Country's decided preference for shopping in Watertown!" Inside, shoppers were greeted by a grand staircase and the finest fixtures. Frank Empsall was an early promoter of the automobile and was founder of the Jefferson County Automobile Club. He donated large sums of money to help improve roads - the same roads and cars that would lead to suburban malls and kill off grand downtown department stores like his decades later. That demise finally happened to Empsall's in the 1990s. The upper six floors, which originally formed an upscale hotel, have been redeveloped as apartments.

...AND DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU IS...

7. F.W. Woolworth Building
southwest corner of Arsenal and
Washington streets on Public Square

As a young boy growing up in Jefferson County, Frank Winfield Woolworth knew he was going to be a merchant. He thought store, he dreamed store, he played store. Often in the evening he and his brother would arrange make-believe merchandise on the dining room table and take turns selling to each other. Yet the man who was to build the largest chain of stores in the world was turned down time and again in his quest to land his first retailing position. In 1871, at the age of nineteen, Woolworth drove around Watertown in an old sled looking for a sales job. Finally he was offered an opportunity at the dry goods firm of Augsbury-Moore. Of course he wasn't going to be paid, but he wouldn't be charged anything for being around and learning, either.

By 1877 Woolworth was running Moore's store for ten dollars a week. In the spring of 1878, Woolworth arranged a number of slow-moving items on an old sewing table and priced them for five cents each. All the goods, heretofore unattractive to customers, sold on the first day. It was the beginning of Woolworth's career selling an assortment of goods at one low price - accepted practice today but a novelty in the 1870s.

In 1916, by which time he had constructed the world's tallest building in New York City and paid the entire \$13 million price tag entirely out of

his fortune amassed by nickels and dimes, Frank Woolworth purchased the American Building on this location that housed the store where he got his start 40-plus years earlier. He planned to demolish it and erect a grander building in its place but he died in 1919 before he could get the job done. The company followed through with his plans, however, and the new six-story Woolworth Building opened in 1921. It remained in operation until 1971.

TURN LEFT ON
WASHINGTON STREET.

8. Watertown YMCA
119 Washington Street at Public Square

The YMCA Building was constructed in 1913 on the corner of Washington Street and Public Square in Watertown. The building was erected as a new home for the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), replacing its old quarters in Washington Hall. The YMCA still occupies the building today, while the upper floors constitute an apartment house.

9. Paddock Arcade
1 Public Square at Washington Street

This indoor shopping arcade greeted its first customers in 1850 and has done business ever since making it the oldest continuously operating covered shopping mall in the United States. There was bit of a craze in the building of downtown arcades that clustered businesses in the 1840s and Loveland Paddock hired Otis Leonard Wheelock to build him one after The Great Fire of 1849. Wheelock, the only architect in town at the time, was busy in rebuilding Watertown before he moved to Chicago in 1856 but few of his creations survive today. He gave the Paddock Arcade a Gothic style, covered with a glass roof that allowed sunlight to filter through to the shops below. Customers entered through a trademark Wheelock arch. After its adjoining Paddock Building was demolished in 1919 to make way for the Woolworth Building the Arcade underwent an extensive redesign in the 1920s that obliterated much of its Gothic interior but it still functions today as the beating heart of Watertown's downtown district.

10. Slye & Burrows (Smith & Percy)
104-06 Washington Street

This sharp Art Moderne addition to the Watertown streetscape appeared in 1932, a storefront for the antique and clothing emporium of Smith & Percy.

11. Roswell P. Flower Monument
head of Washington Street

Roswell Pettibone Flower was born in Theresa, north of Watertown, in 1835. After an early career in mercantile and manufacturing pursuits he obtained his first public position as assistant postmaster of Watertown in 1854. In his thirties he moved to New York City to engage in banking and emerged into the United States congress where he served three terms before resigning and winning the governorship of New York in 1891. He died in 1899 and this monument was commissioned the next year by the legal firm in which Flower was a partner. Famed sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens was paid \$25,000 for the project and he delivered a heroic bronze statue of Flower in a long coat with outstretched hand.

12. Black River Valley Club
131 Washington Street

The Black River Valley Club, a private business and social club for men and women, organized in 1904, picking up the pieces of the Union Club that had started in 1876. The new club razed the stone house on this site that had been used by its predecessor and its new building was ready by 1907. The stately Neo-Georgian design was provided by architects Thain & Thain of New York City.

13. Agricultural Insurance Building
(Morgan Stanley Smith Barney)
215 Washington Street

The Agricultural Insurance Company organized in 1853 and grew to be one of the largest and most successful businesses in New York state. Its strength was exemplified by this Neoclassical headquarters constructed in 1923. Edward York and Philip Sawyer of New York City, leaders in designing buildings for financial institutions,

drew up the plans for this sprawling symmetrical building that features restrained Ionic pilasters and a pedimented entrance.

14. Paddock Mansion
228 Washington Street

Loveland Paddock began his business career working with his brother in the family mercantile business and made his fortune supplying the nascent American military during the War of 1812. He began investing his monies in real estate and became one of the wealthiest men in Jefferson County. His fortune was estimated at \$800,000 and described by the *New York Reformer* newspaper as "one of the largest out of our large cities, unaided by land or other speculations, that has ever been made in the state."

His son Edwin, a local banker, built this house between 1876 and 1878. Edwin and his wife Olive were frequent travelers in Europe where they developed definite and very differing aesthetic tastes. He was a fan of the exuberant Queen Anne Victorian style while she favored the graceful design of Swiss architecture. Rather than resolve the dispute architect John Hose incorporated elements of both styles in his plan for the mansion. When Olive Paddock died in 1922 she left the home to the Jefferson County Historical Society and it opened as a museum in 1924.

15. Flower Memorial Library
232 Washington Street

Industrialist Andrew Carnegie funded the building of over 2,500 libraries around the world in the early 1900s and Watertown put in a request. Emma Flower Taylor, daughter of Roswell P. Flower, believed the community should take care of its own and offered to match the offer and conditions laid out by the Carnegie Foundation - and threw in the land to boot. She asked only that the new library carry her father's name. Addison F. Lansing, a local architect who hailed from the legendary firm of McKim, Mead and White, delivered a grand domed Beaux Arts library executed in gleaming white marble. Inside, under the three-story rotunda, the library is stuffed with glorious murals and paintings that elaborate on local themes.

16. Masonic Temple
242 Washington Street

This Neoclassical Greek temple with an order of fluted Doric columns supporting a wide triangular pediment was constructed in 1914 as a lodge for the Watertown Masons. The building that includes a theater, commercial kitchen and gymnasium was sold to the Adirondack Jewish Center in 2010.

17. *Watertown Daily Times*
260 Washington Street

Watertown's daily newspaper goes back 150 years to its days as the *Daily Reformer* in 1861; it has published under the masthead of the *Daily Times* since 1870. Harold B. Johnson joined the paper as an editor in 1907 and acquired the publication in 1932. The Johnson family has controlled the *Daily Times* ever since, including 52 years under the guidance of John B. Johnson.

18. First Presbyterian Church
403 Washington Street

The first religious ceremonies in Watertown were held in pioneer co-founder Hart Massey's cabin in 1800. The roots of the Presbyterian church extend back to a gathering of 13 men and women before the Reverend Ebenezer Lazelle in a barn on June 3, 1803. In 1820, a site was obtained at the corner of Washington and Academy Streets, and a church structure of stone was erected at the cost of \$9,000. Two stories tall, with a dome-like tower over the entrance, it was dedicated on January 1, 1821. The current brick structure, designed by Otis Wheelock, replaced the stone church in 1851. The current appearance reflects the alterations and additions to Wheelock's core building, including the slender steeple that came on board in 1892.

TURN RIGHT ON MULLIN STREET. TURN RIGHT ON SHERMAN STREET.

19. Trinity Episcopal Church
227 Sherman Street

The congregation formed in 1828 and constructed a fine wooden Gothic church on Court Street in 1833. It perished in the Great Fire of 1849 and was quickly rebuilt. The site was prized as the location for the new City Hall in 1890 and the Trinity congregation moved to this location. William Pitt Wentworth used elements of the multi-chromatic Richardsonian Romanesque and Gothic styles to create this massive new Episcopalian home in 1889.

TURN RIGHT ON ARSENAL STREET.

20. Jefferson County Court House
southeast corner of Arsenal and Sherman streets

Prolific Syracuse architect Horatio Nelson White designed three nearly identical courthouses like this one in New York between 1857 and 1862; only Jefferson County's from 1862 survives. The vibrantly decorated Italianate structure features rich red brick with limestone trim. It is highlighted by a square, three-story tower. For many years the building was coated and a sandblasting in 1952 revealed its lavish details but also hastened deterioration.

21. Post Office/Surrogates Office
163 Arsenal Street

This former post office shows how tastes in government buildings changed over the final half of the 19th century. Out is the lavish ornamentation and in is the dignified austerity of the Neoclassical style in this four-story graystone federal building. Congress appropriated \$77,000 for its construction in 1906. The first Watertown postmark from this post was dated 1909. Today it is part of the County court complex.

TURN RIGHT ON ARCADE STREET.

22. Cleveland Building
northwest corner of Stone Street and
Arcade Street

This hulking graystone structure began as the Watertown post office in 1890 a short distance away on Arsenal Street. When that building was replaced in 1908 the stones were dismantled and carted to this location where contractor Milo L. Cleveland reassembled it, adding an additional story. During his life Cleveland constructed hundreds of miles of railroad, many bridges of the stone arch type, and he deepened and widened many canals such as the Welland, Galoop, & North Channel canals in Canada. His resume also included many Watertown buildings such as the now-departed Opera House, the Elks building, and the C. R. Remington paper mill at Glen Park. This was one of his final projects before dying in 1912 at the age of 61 after a long illness.

23. Massey House
behind Jefferson County Historical
Society off Stone Street

This is the Watertown's oldest standing structure, believed to have been built around 1802 by Hart Massey to replace the log cabin he erected in 1800 as one of the town's founders. It originally stood not far away on Public Square at the site of the Paddock Arcade. While Hart Massey might be able to find his old house today he would probably not recognize it as it was extensively remodeled around 1876 when it came here to be attached to the ice house and barn that served the Paddock Mansion out front.

TURN LEFT ON STONE STREET
AND LEFT ON WASHINGTON
STREET TO RETURN TO PUBLIC
SQUARE AND THE START OF THE
WALKING TOUR.

IDENTIFYING AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

Recognizing Early American Architecture (1600-1840):

POST-MEDIEVAL ENGLISH COLONIAL (1600-1700)

- * steeply pitched, side-gabled roof
- * small casement windows with many small panes (restored often)
- * massive chimney
- * vertical board (batten) door
- * little or no eave overhang, no cornice detailing
- * one room deep

DUTCH COLONIAL (1625-1840)

- * side-gambrel roof
- * usually one story
- * batten door, most divided into upper and lower halves
- * little or no eave overhang

FRENCH COLONIAL (1700-1830)

- * steeply pitched roof, either hipped (four-sided) or side-gabled (two-sided)
- * one story
- * tall, narrow door and window openings
- * doors and windows typically divided vertically into pairs
- * walls of stucco (over half-timbered frame)

SPANISH COLONIAL (1660-1850)

- * low-pitched or flat roof
- * normally one story
- * few small windows
- * multiple external doors
- * walls very thick in stucco over adobe brick or rubble stone
- * long, narrow porches opening to courtyards

GEORGIAN (1700-1780)

- * windows with double-hung sashes, typically nine or twelve small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- * paneled door, normally with decorative crown (most often pedimented but at times broken-pedimented) and supported by decorative pilasters
- * row of small rectangular panes beneath door crown
- * cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- * windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked

ADAMESQUE (FEDERAL) (1780-1820)

- * windows with double-hung sashes, typically six small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- * semi-circular or elliptical fanlight over paneled door, typically accompanied by sidelights, elaborated crown and surround, and/or extended as small entry porch
- * cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- * windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked
- * while similar to Georgian, features are often “lighter”

GREEK REVIVAL (1825-1860)

- * gabled or hipped roof of low pitch
- * entry porch or full-width porch supported by square or round, prominent columns
 - *Doric*: plain capitals
 - *Ionic*: capitals with scroll-like spirals
 - *Corinthian*: capitals shaped like inverted bells decorated with leaves
- * narrow line of transom and sidelights around door, usually incorporated into elaborate door surround
- * cornice lines emphasized with wide, divided band of trim

Recognizing Victorian Architecture (1840-1910)

- * roof ornaments
- * bay (protruding) windows
- * three-part Palladian (rounded in middle) windows
- * gingerbread porch trim

GOTHIC REVIVAL STYLE (1835-1875)

- * high-pitched center gables
- * pointed arch windows and doors
- * pendants and finials extending from roof

ITALIANATE STYLE (1840-1885)

- * brackets under roof cornices
- * cupolas on the roof
- * narrow, square porch posts with chamfered corners
- * tall, slender windows

SECOND EMPIRE STYLE (1855-1885)

- * mansard roof, concave or convex, with dormer windows on steep lower slope
- * molded cornices bound lower roof slope above and below
- * eaves normally with decorative brackets below

STICK STYLE (1860-1890)

- * stick-like bracketing on porches, often diagonal or curving
- * stick-like grid on wall surfaces
- * Jerkin-Head (cut-off triangular) roofs and dormers
- * pent (or shed) roofs on dormers, porches and bays
- * decorative trusses in gables; often steeply pitched gables
- * wooden wall cladding (boards or shingles)

QUEEN ANNE (EASTLAKE) STYLE (1880-1910)

- * asymmetrical facade
- * patterned shingles
- * turned porch posts and trim
- * corner towers and turrets
- * wraparound porch
- * steeply pitched, irregular roofline

SHINGLE STYLE (1880-1900)

- * shingled walls without interruption at corners
- * multi-level eaves above asymmetrical facade
- * extensive porches
- * walls and roofs covered with continuous wood shingles

RICHARDSONIAN ROMANESQUE (1880-1900)

- * based on the innovative designs of Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson
- * round topped arches over windows, porch supports or entrance
- * most have towers, usually round with conical roofs
- * always masonry walls, usually with rough-faced, squared stonework
- * facade usually asymmetrical

Recognizing 20th century Architecture:

COLONIAL REVIVAL (1885 AND BEYOND)

- * accentuated front door with fanlights and sidelights
- * symmetrical facade around centered entrance
- * windows with double-hung sashes
- * large dormers
- * round, smooth porch columns, often clustered

NEOCLASSICAL (1895-1950)

- * facade dominated by full-length porch supported by classical columns, typically Ionic or Corinthian
- * facade shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door
- * revivals may have curved porticos, two-story entrances, paired or tripled windows and/or bays not seen on originals
- * often very large

TUDOR (1890 -1940)

- * massive chimneys, commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots
- * facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, usually steeply perched
- * decorative half-timbering often present
- * steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled
- * tall, narrow windows, commonly in multiple groups with multi-pane glazing
- * walls of brick, stone, wood, stucco or in combination

FRENCH CHATEAUESQUE (1890-1930)

- * busy roof line with many vertical elements (spires, pinnacles, turrets, gables, shaped chimneys)
- * steeply pitched hipped roof
- * multiple dormers, usually wall dormers extending through cornice line
- * walls of masonry, usually stone

BEAUX ARTS (1890-1930)

- * wall surfaces with decorative garlands, floral patterns or shields
- * masonry walls, usually of light-colored stone
- * facade with corner quoins and columns, often paired with Ionic or Corinthian capitals
- * first story typically rusticated (stonework) with exaggerated joints
- * facade symmetrical

SPANISH MISSION STYLE (1890-1930)

- * shaped Mission dormer or roof parapet
- * porch roofs supported by large square piers, commonly arched above
- * commonly with red tile roof covering
- * widely overhanging eaves, usually open
- * wall surface usually smooth stucco

PUEBLO REVIVAL (1910-PRESENT)

- * flat roof with parapeted wall above
- * stucco wall surface, usually earth-toned
- * projecting wooden roof beams (vigas)
- * wall and roof parapet with irregular, rounded edges
- * unpainted wood porch columns - maybe just tree trunks
- * tile or brick floors

PRAIRIE STYLE (1900-1920)

- * low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves
- * two stories with one-story porches or wings
- * massive square porch supports
- * detail emphasizing horizontal lines
- * hipped roofs are more common than end or side gables
- * one of few indigenous American styles developed by Chicago architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright and built only during first two decades of century

CRAFTSMAN (1905-1930)

- * low-pitched gabled roof with wide, unenclosed eave overhang
- * roof rafters usually exposed
- * porches supported by square columns
- * decorative braces or false beams under gables
- * columns frequently continue to ground level without a break at porch level
- * generally one or one-and-a-half stories

ART DECO (1920-1940)

- * zigzags and other geometric and stylized motifs
- * towers and other vertical projections
- * smooth stucco wall surface
- * decorative motifs: geometric floral; chevron with lozenge; reeding and fluting, often around doors and windows; sunrise pattern

ART MODERNE (1920-1940)

- * streamline, curved corners
- * smooth stucco wall surface
- * asymmetrical facade
- * flat roof, usually with ledge at roof line
- * horizontal grooves, lines, balustrades
- * windows can turn corners and can be roundly shaped
- * glass-block windows or sections of the wall

INTERNATIONAL (1925-PRESENT)

- * no decorative detailing at doors or windows
- * smooth, unornamental wall surface
- * asymmetrical facade
- * flat roof, usually without ledge at roof line
- * windows usually metal casements set flush with outer walls