

**Look Up,  
Western  
New York!**

**Walking Tours of 6 Towns  
in the Empire State**

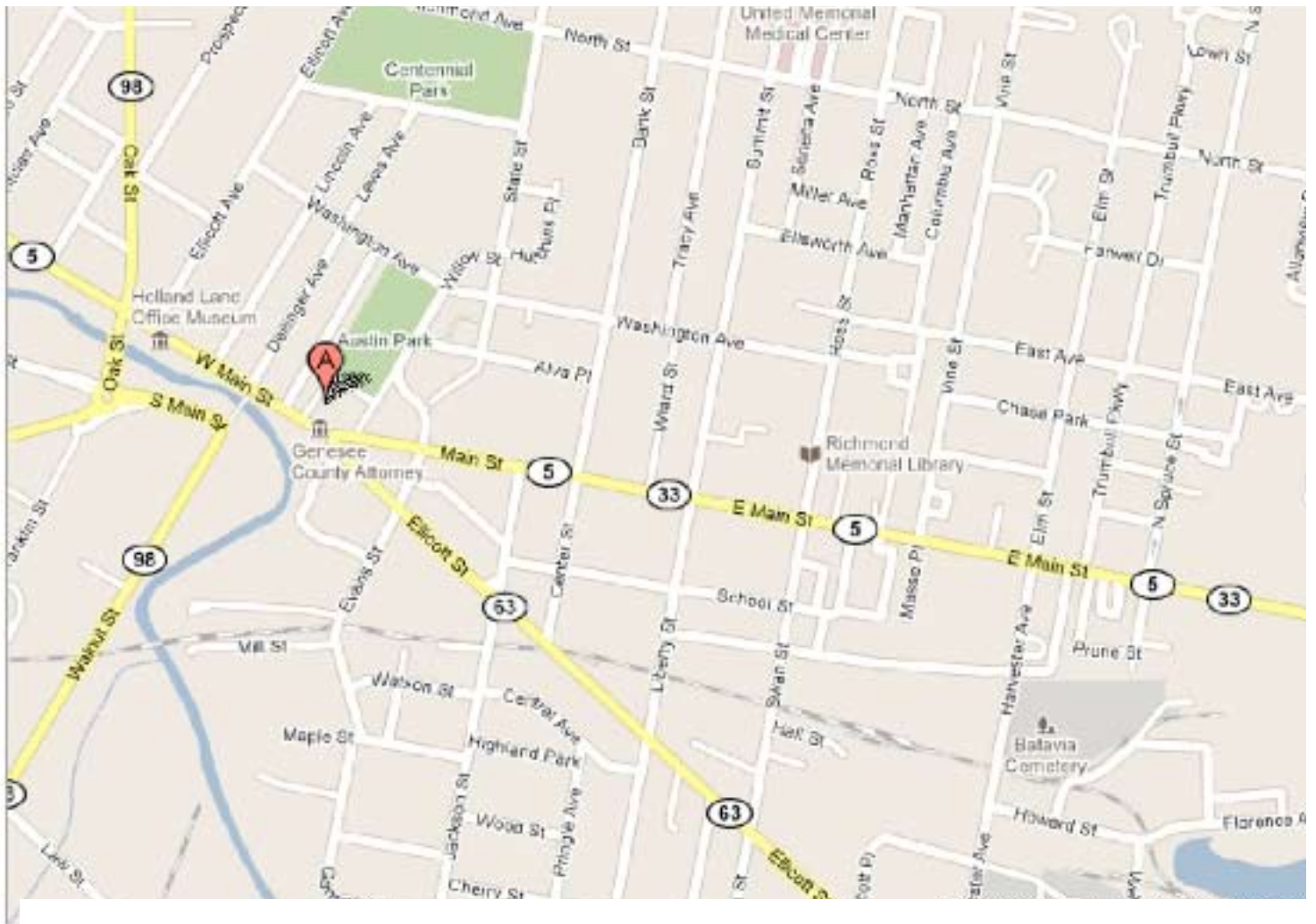
# A Walking Tour of Batavia, New York **from walkthetown.com**

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 of Genesee county, 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 one of the village's first merchant and first postmaster, as well as one of the area's wealthiest landowners. Son George constructed this two-story brick Italianate-style mansion in 1853. The Brisbane family donated the mansion 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 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. Eldridge, 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 buildings 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 converted into 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 leaded 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. The present 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 polychromatic 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 6th 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.**

# A Walking Tour of Buffalo, New York from **walkthetown.com**

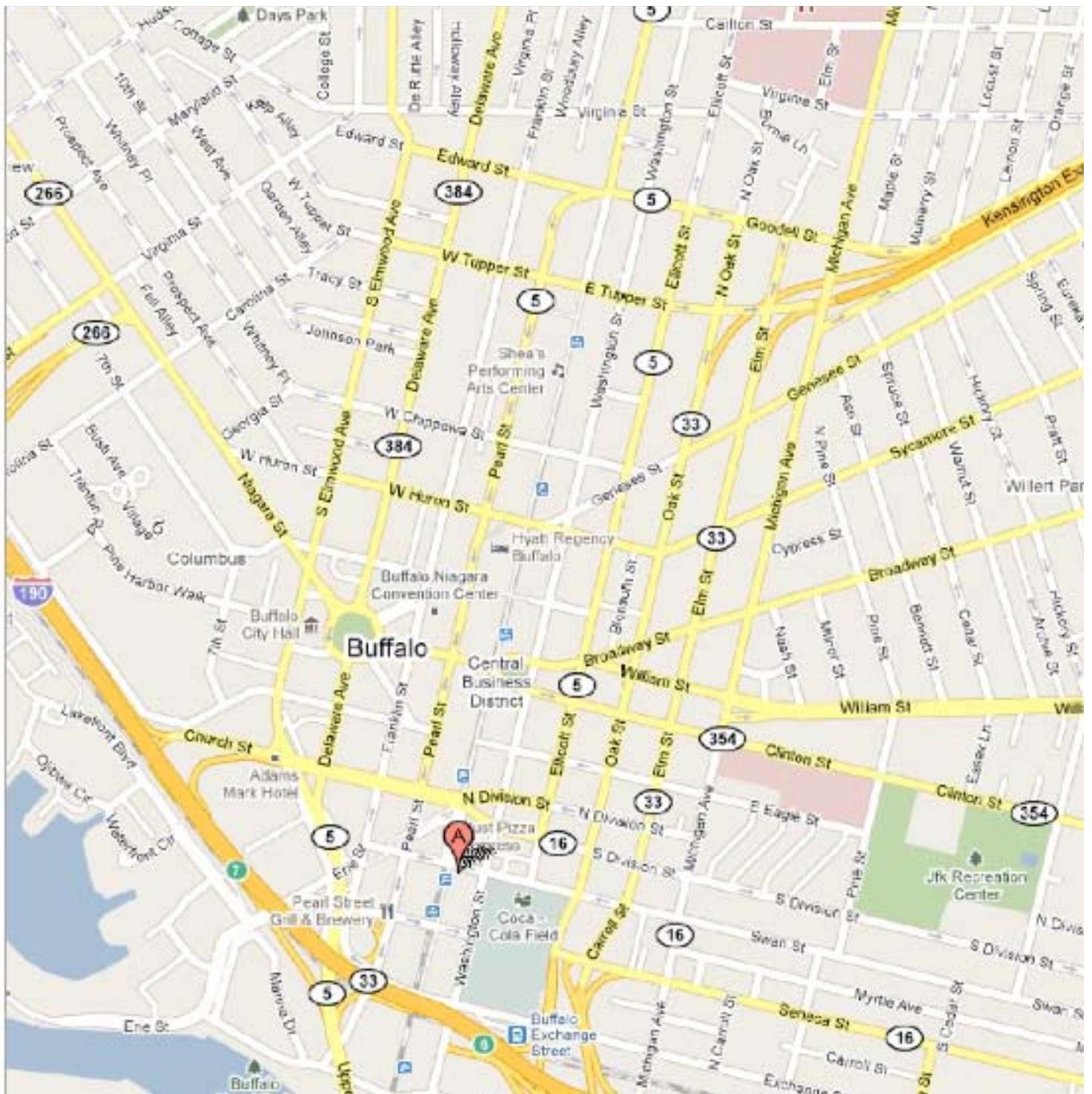
Governor De Witt Clinton traveled through the wilderness of western New York in 1822 to chair a meeting that promised long-range ramifications. The digging of “Clinton’s Ditch,” the Erie Canal, had begun five years earlier and would soon reach its western conclusion. But where? There were two contenders. 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, the city 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 BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY AROUND 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 figures. The brightly colored tiles at the top of the tower suggest a flame-like crown that represent the energetic sun burst in the flag of the City. The building was designed with large vents on the exterior to catch winds of 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 Brick King Philo Balcom in 1865 that 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 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. In 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 high-rise building. 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 as 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 decorations and cornices were pre-cast and assembled on site. The process was cheaper and quicker. 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. In Buffalo 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 sculpted by Caspar Buberl. New York Governor Grover Cleveland dedicated the memorial on July 4, 1884.

**FACING THE MONUMENT TURN TO THE RIGHT AN 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. Bethune worked out of the Buffalo shop of Bethune, Bethune and Fuchs. 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 bricks 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.

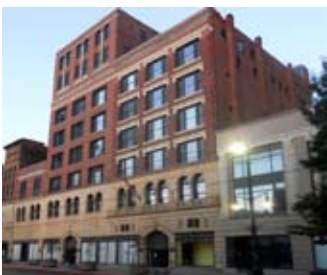
## 24. Buffalo & Erie County Public Library 1 Lafayette Square



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 brick glazed terra cotta tiles and plaster moldings.

## **RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO MAIN STREET AND TURN RIGHT.**

### **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, and 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 build his dream theater. Finally he 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 that included commanding 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 building 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.**

# A Walking Tour of Jamestown, New York **from walkthetown.com**

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.

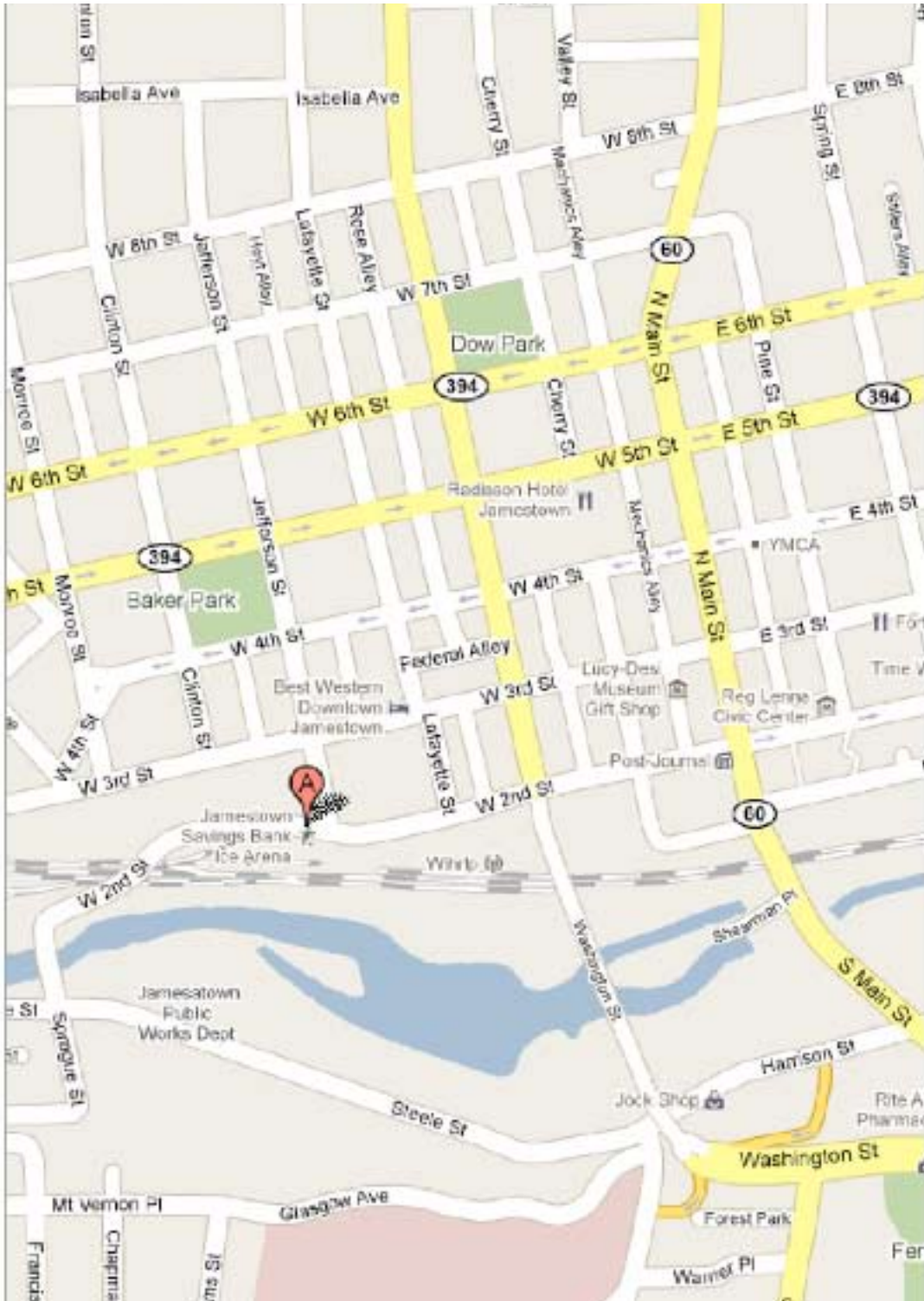
Weathering several fires, Prendergast persevered in his enterprise and in 1815 lots fifty by one hundred twenty feet were surveyed and placed on the market at \$50 each. Settlers indeed followed and in 1827 Jamestown was incorporated into a village. Among the early settlers were a number of skilled woodworkers 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 still has 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 Avneue**



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 Lucille 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 wood furniture industry, 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 travelres between New York and Chciago.

## **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 THRID 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 and chorus girl but a gig as poster girl for Chesterfield cigarettes in 1933 propelled her to Hollywood. She appeared in over 60 films without making much impression on the public. In 1950 she was offered a project on the new medium and 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 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.

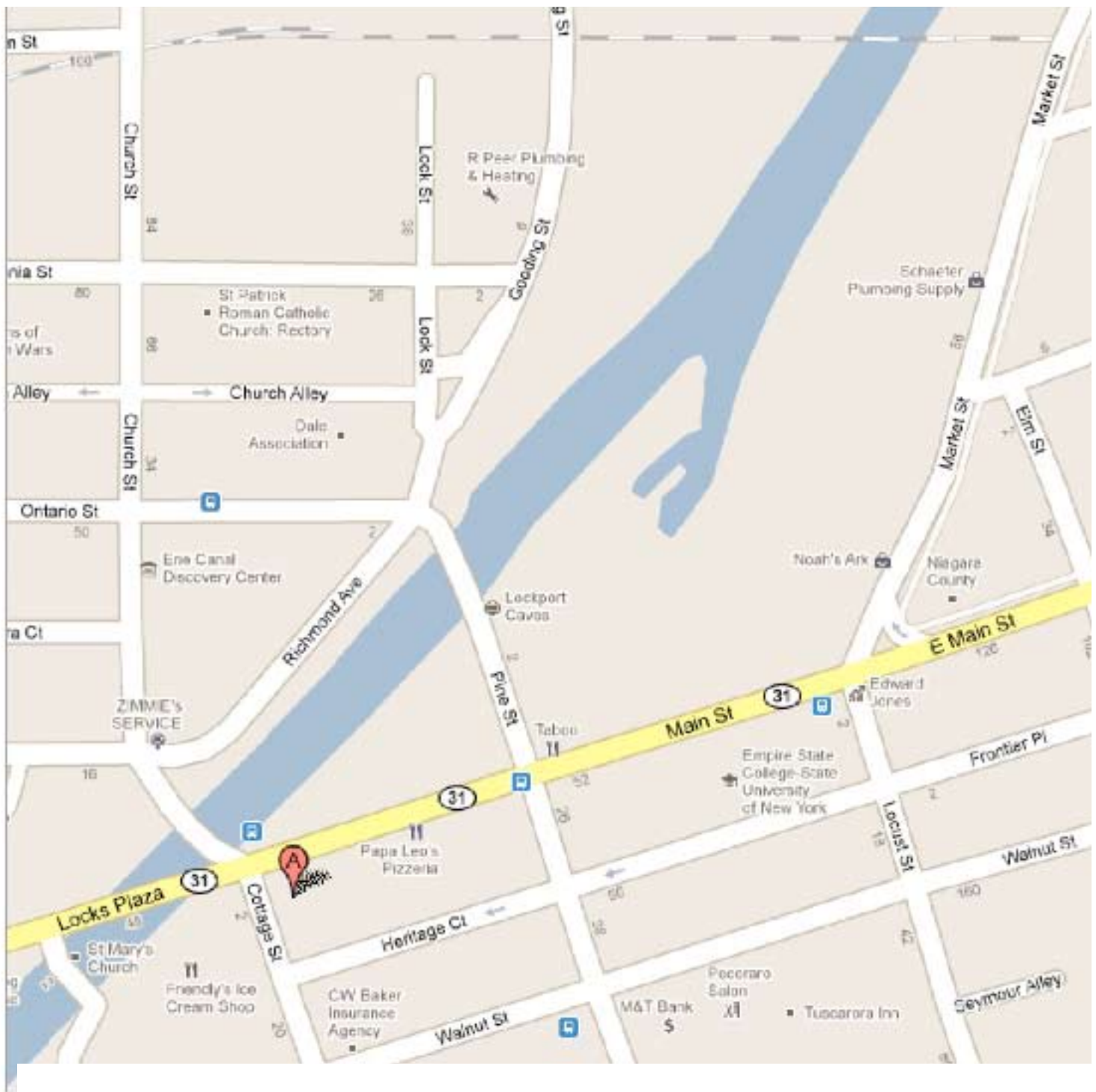
**CONTINUE ON MAIN STREET TO SIXTH STREET AND TURN LEFT TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN DOW PARK.**

# A Walking Tour of Lockport, New York **from walkthetown.com**

There were settlers in these parts in the early 1800s, most notably the Comstock family from Connecticut that 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 through here 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 for 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 torn down over the years. 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 bridge 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 outrage 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 pilaster 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 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 building a stately Colonial Revival look, unlike many theaters of the day that sought to transport patrons to exotic spaces of the mind with their flamboyant decors. Like many 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 MODER 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 recreation ice 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 and 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 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.**

# A Walking Tour of North Tonawanda, New York **from walkthetown.com**

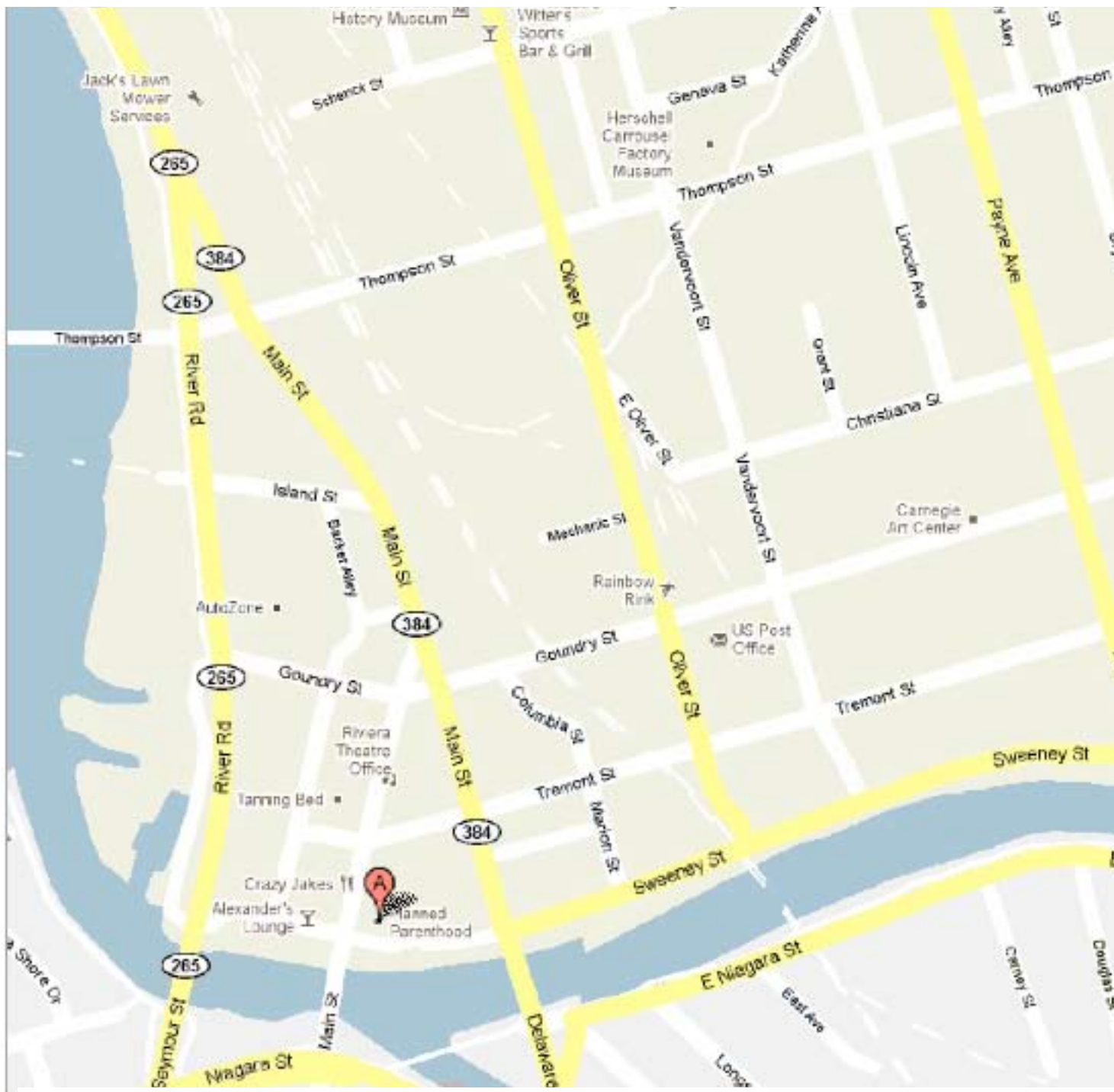
By the 1830s both the Erie Canal and the Buffalo and Niagara Falls Railroad had come together at the Niagara River, assuring the industrial development of the Town of Tonawanda that had been settled here back in 1805. The first to take advantage of the advantageous situation was the East Boston Timber 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 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 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 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 leadign 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 Towandan 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 carouseles 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 carouseles 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.**



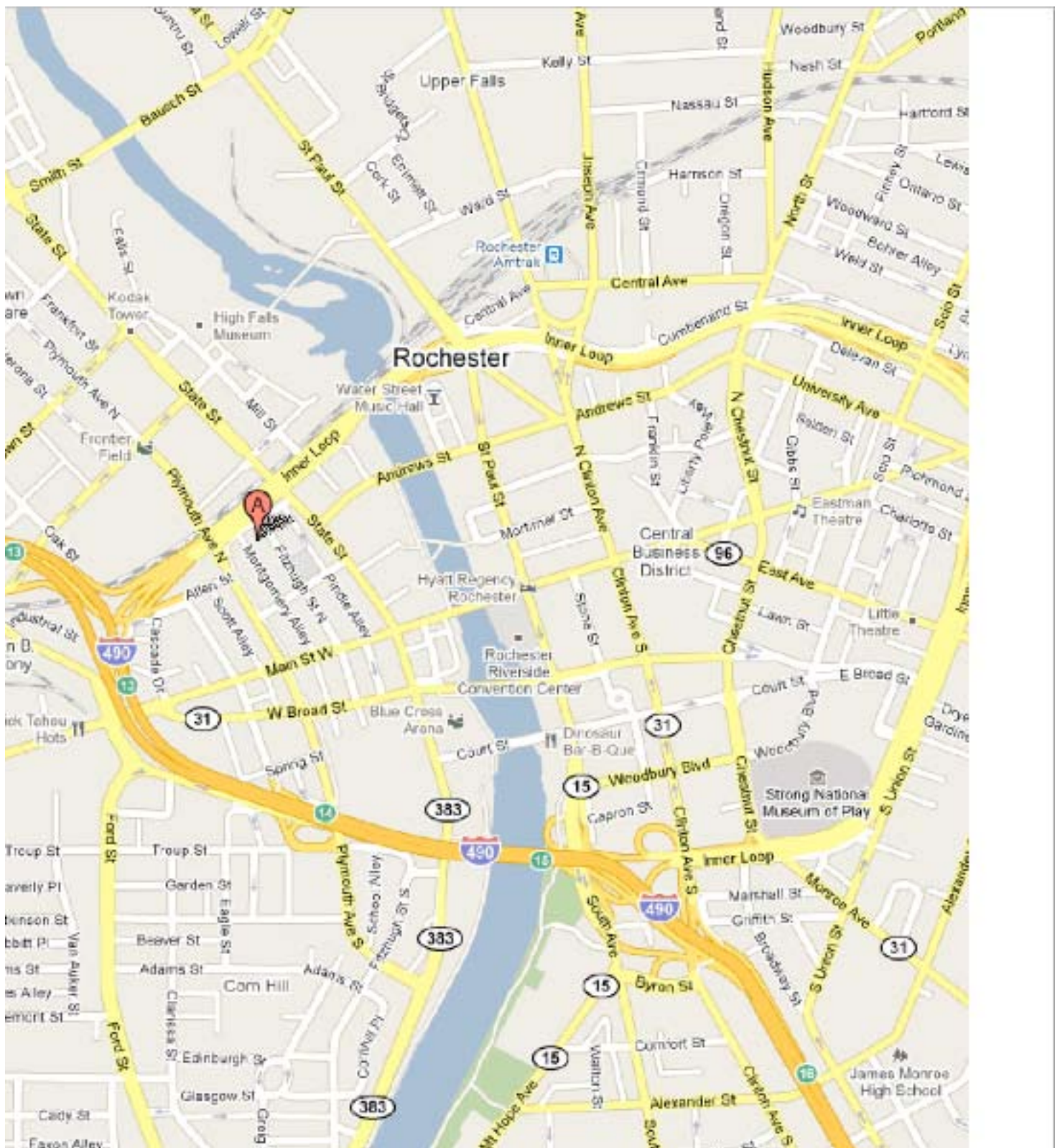
# A Walking Tour of Rochester, New York **from walkthetown.com**

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 terra-cotta, 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, HISTORICALLY 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 the post office from 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. Finally, 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 headquarterd 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 S 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.

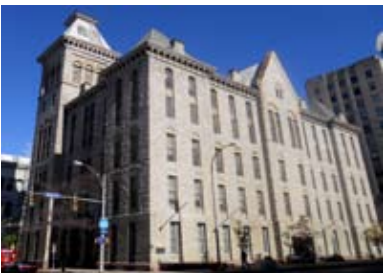
**7. St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church**  
**17 S Fitzhugh Street**



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 W 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 as 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 he 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 E 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 E 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 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 stores 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.

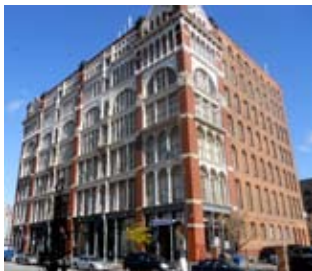
**26. The College at Brockport Metro Centre**  
**55 St. Paul Street**



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 on a stream 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 N Fitzhugh Street**



The first Presbyterian services were held in the homes of Hannah Scrantom 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.**

## IDENTIFYING AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

### *Recognizing Early American Architecture:*

#### Postmedieval 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-gambrelled 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 or side-gabled
- \* 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:*

### General Victorian Features (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 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 Chateausque (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, oftne 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