



THE PRESERVATIONIST

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022

Officers:

Steven Grant, *President*

Michael Bosak, *Vice President, Education,*
The Preservationist Editor

Karen Day, *Vice President, Programs/Events*

Secretary - Vacant

Dianne Nassar, *Acting Treasurer*

Trustees:

Phil Bean, *Olmsted City*

Boyd Bissell

Don Dorn, *Facilities*

Joan Dorn

Michael Gentile

Paul Hage

Phil Kernan

Michael Lehman, *S&H, Historic and*
Endangered Buildings

Alexis Nassar, *Membership*

Trustees Emeriti:

Janet Blaney

Rand Carter

Phyllis Draper

Virginia Kelly

Judy Olney

Bart Rasmus

A Message from the President

Dear Landmarkers,

I always hate to see summer end. The end of August also brings to an end many other things I thoroughly enjoy. As most of you know by now, one of those things is our Summer Walk & Talk Series. I don't know what to do with myself now on Monday evenings! All kidding aside, it was another successful season of outings. Other than a couple of evenings when the weather did not look like it was going to cooperate, the turnout was very good. Many thanks go out again to Mike and Penny Bosak for another great season!

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have located a contractor who is very interested in the roof restoration on the #1 mansion. We are waiting on a new quote for the work that needs to be completed. The sticking point right now is trying to find a supplier for the ornate trim pieces that need to be created. Sadly, the company we had planned on using has gone out of business. Unfortunately, in this post-Covid era, we are finding there are fewer and fewer folks doing historic preservation work. We are confident we will find another supplier, but it is another delay in the already much delayed project.

I am excited to share that we are participating in the Mohawk Valley Gives program sponsored by The Community Foundation! Both the Landmarks Society and Olmsted City are on the list of participating nonprofit organizations. This is a great opportunity for people to donate to their favorite nonprofit. I would like to thank The Community Foundation for hosting this event and I thank everyone who donates to us. Every dollar of these donations goes towards the ongoing restoration efforts.

Monetary donations are the life blood of our organization, and there will always be a need for those contributions. But another contribution that is often overlooked is the contribution of one's time. And some of these contributions take place 'behind the scenes', so to speak. Allow me to explain the most recent one. Unfortunately, Utica is seeing an unusually high amount of homeless people taking up temporary residence throughout the city. Sadly, one of their nighttime hangouts ended up being the porches at the #1 mansion. Sparing the details, what these folks left behind every night can only be described as an incredible mess. Thankfully, it looks like our visitors have moved on. But that mess had to be cleaned up, and that is where some of the unseen contributions come into play. A number of folks donated quite a bit of time to the cleanup and few, if any, witnessed their contribution.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to that cleanup effort. The Society is very appreciative of this donation.

Steve Grant

President



P: 315.732.7376

E: uticalandmarks@gmail.com
Uticalandmarks.org



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022



Table of Contents

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
INVEST IN THE FUTURE	2
MISSION STATEMENT	3
SPECIAL THANKS	3
NEWS FROM GREATER UTICA	2 - 7
CAFE DOMENICO	8 - 9
SCENIC & HISTORIC	9 - 11
KENDALL MANOR	12

MERCHANDISING

Our Merchandise Committee is at work with plans to increase our Landmarks Society shop. New ideas include mugs, glassware, t-shirts, and so much more are being considered.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE AN
EMAIL VERSION OF OUR NEWSLETTERS -
CONTACT US AT 315-732-7376.



INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF PRESERVATION

Invest in your Landmarks Society!

For nearly 50 years, the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica has been the premiere organization in the region promoting and advocating the preservation, restoration, and adaptive reuse of historic buildings, neighborhoods, and landscapes. We also provide a number of programs and services that instruct, inform, and empower individuals and groups in their efforts to "preserve the past and protect the future."

There are many ways in which you can give back to the Landmarks Society to help ensure we are able to continue this valuable and vital work in our community.

Ways to Give

Outright Gifts:

This can be a check, money order, or credit donation, and it can be used as a charitable deduction on your taxes.

Wills:

The Landmarks Society can be named as a beneficiary in your will by designating a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate.

Life Insurance:

The Landmarks Society can be named as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.

In Memory of Loved Ones:

You can honor the memory of a loved one by

making a donation to the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica in their name, and asking others to do the same in lieu of flowers.

All of the funding received by the Landmarks Society goes directly back into our programs and services, and the maintenance and restoration efforts of our Rutger Park properties.

Charitable Gift Annuity:

This is a very simple contract between you and the Community Foundation. Through this program you will receive a monthly income stream for life. At the end of your life, the Landmarks Society receives the remainder as a gift.

NEWS FROM AROUND GREATER UTICA

By Michael Bosak

DUNHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY, WHITESBORO, NY

Dunham Public Library has recently completed yet another phase of its multi-year improvement and expansion plan, and we are thrilled to report that this has included the repair of and renovation to the **Dunham House**. The iconic and historic house was, at one point, actually considered for demolition as the Board of Directors pondered their fiscal responsibilities to the public. After much deliberation and consideration, it was decided that Dunham House was much too important and symbolic to the community (with some gentle prodding from Landmarks) to not retain. Still, there were some significant considerations as a result of this decision. For one thing, several of the upper floors were dramatically out of plumb due to early settling of the building. Fortunately, a structural analysis indicated that this settling had stopped eons ago and the building as a whole was completely sound. Second, the west-facing bay window had been leaking for some time. Third, the large "original" addition (1985) to the north and east had created a problem where the roofs married together. Fourth, subsurface drainage was needed around Dunham House.

According to the Biography of **George Earl Dunham** on the Dunham Library's website, he was born on April 5, 1859 in Clayville, NY. He grew up in the family homestead on Main Street in Whitesboro. He spent his life in public service and was remembered as one of the best-known civic-minded and prominent individuals in the Greater Utica area. He attended private schools and graduated from the **Whitestown Seminary** in 1875, the

youngest or his class of thirty-five students. The Whitestown Seminary was the first institution of higher learning in the country to admit African-American students. At the Seminary, he excelled in classical scholarship, public speaking and became a very good orator. Due to his great skills as a speaker and orator, he was often called upon to preside over banquets and other public events. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hamilton College in 1879, where he was, again, the youngest in his class. Hamilton College awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1921.

George Dunham returned to Oneida County in 1881 and became Vice President of the Whitestown Seminary where his father was principal. He would serve under his father for fifteen months, teaching Latin, English and Public Speaking. He eventually passed the examinations to be admitted to the NY State Bar Association. However, he also worked as a reporter for Fulton County Intelligencer, the Johnston Republican, and the Utica Daily Press. He eventually worked his way up to become Editor-in-Chief and President of the Utica Daily Press Publishing Company in 1886. He made the Utica Daily Press a financial success and a power for good in the community.

On January 9, 1884, George Dunham married Helen L. Jones of Utica. They had one daughter who died in infancy. In addition to their home on Main Street in Whitesboro, they also had a "summer home: on Harts Hill known as the Hughston Farm and a fishing preserve in Remsen. In 1887, he was appointed manager of the Utica State Hospital for the Insane. In 1900, while working as the editor of the Utica Daily Press, Dunham helped urge Utica voters to build their new library via tax revenues. Voters approved the \$165,000 bond issue and the library was constructed. In 1905, he was made Chairman of the Board of the Utica State Hospital. He continued on the board for thirty-five years, and had a building named after him (Dunham Hall).

Mr. Dunham was also involved in founding the Utica Trust and Deposit Company. He was appointed by Utica Mayor Thomas Kinney (who lived in #5 Rutger Park) to be chairman of the Utica Electric and Light Commission. He was director of the Utica National Bank, Utica Mutual Insurance Company, and president of the Partlow Corporation. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Utica Chamber of Commerce, and became its first president. He was also President of the Board of Trustees of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). He was also a trustee of Hamilton College,

Mr. Dunham was dedicated to immigrant naturalization and taught many classes to immigrants. He wrote a complete textbook on the subject that gained national notoriety entitled, "What Every Citizen Should Know." For his dedication, the former Devereux Street Post Office was named Dunham Station after him.



GEORGE EARL DUNHAM

Continued on Page 4

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Landmarks Society is to actively promote the preservation and restoration of historically and architecturally significant buildings and sites in the Utica area. Through projects, community education, advocacy, marketing and planned activities, the Society engages its members, partners and the community in preserving the past and protecting the future.

The Landmarks Society was chartered by the State of New York in October 1974 as a nonprofit, educational corporation. The purposes for which the Landmarks Society was created include the following: 1) To protect, enhance, perpetuate and preserve buildings, landmarks and other districts of historic, architectural and cultural significance; and 2) To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise, the title to, or the custody and control of sites, buildings and areas of historical and cultural significance."

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS!

Antionette Meyers
Grace Leone
Lois Pirro
Doris Harf
Mary Cardinale
Suzanne Ernst
Joanne Szczygiel
Bartle Eli

Frank & Marianne Montecalvo
Joan Blanchfield
Mary Vicks
Jill & Tom Spellman
Martha Brody
Barbara Turro
Ronald & Charleen Pernat
Grace McNasser

Deborah & Richard Greer-Gassner
Thomas and Joan Dalton
Annette Parsons
Chris Sagaas
Bob Heins
Diane Hartig

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



George Earl Dunham died on October 29, 1922 at age 63. Flags flew at half-mast on City Hall, the County Building, and the Fort Schuyler Club (where he was a member). A monument to him is located on the Memorial Parkway at the corner of Holland Avenue in Utica that was dedicated in 1931. The inscription reads, **“Advocate of good causes, Erected by his fellow citizens as a tribute to his useful life in Utica.”** (*Historic Utica, A Guide To The City’s Outdoor Sculpture, Presented by Rand Carter, 1996, Landmarks Society of Greater Utica*). Hamilton College also dedicated a residence hall to him in the 1950s.

Upon his death, he designated his father’s estate to be used as a public library. In 1927, Dunham Public Library was chartered and incorporated as a free public library serving the Union Free School District of Whitesboro. In 1937, Dunham Public Library was rechartered as a public library serving the geographic area of the Whitesboro Central School District, a service area encompassing Deerfield, Marcy, Schuyler, Whitesboro and Yorkville.

According to Library Director April Bliss, the library has a long-standing, multi-year plan for expansion and improvement to handle anticipated growth. The recently completed project included new flooring, carpeting on the stairs, new wall covering, painting, floor leveling, and office consolidation. Most ceilings were left intact, and only two areas received drop ceilings. A new employee lounge and kitchen was located in the Dunham House.

The architectural firm involved with the renovations and improvements was Holmes, King Kallquist & Associates from Syracuse. The lead architect was Julia Hafftka-Marshall, AIA, Associate Partner, whose expertise includes library programming, adaptive reuse, historic preservation, new construction, alterations and renovations. She is qualified as a preservation architect under federal guidelines. Construction contractor was M.E.I.D. Companies of Oneida, NY.

Moving forward, there are plans for a new sign on Main Street, sidewalk improvements, restroom renovations, updates to the large community room space, and small patios on either side of the Dunham House main entrance. But the next major construction project beginning next March will be a second floor addition to the back of Dunham House that will ultimately house new adult space. This expansion was planned for structurally in the “original” addition in 1985.

Regarding the ultimate (and thankful!) decision to preserve and renovate Dunham House (rather than to tear it down and start over), Director Bliss stated that it was all part of the process, that “nothing was off the table” helped them to vet out the process and then come to the decision to preserve it. We, for one, are very glad that they did.



REFURBISHED STAIRCASE



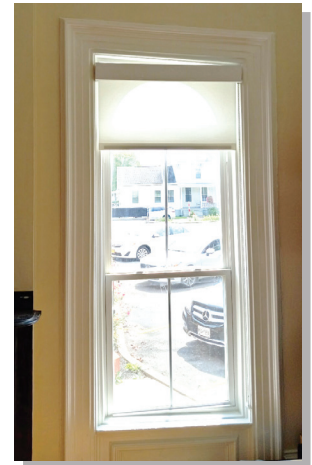
NEW COPPER ROOF ON THE WEST-FACING BAY WINDOW



FRONT FACADE



VIEW FROM THE SOUTHWEST



SECOND FLOOR WINDOW SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE EAST EXTERIOR WALL SETTLING

A ribbon cutting will be held on Friday, October 28, 2022 at 2:00p.m. (commemorating the granting of the Charter of the Library by the State of New York on October 28, 1926). It is free and open to the public. Tours will be given of the renovated spaces.

[The Whitestown Seminary](#)

History of the Whitestown Seminary was extracted from the “History of Oneida County” 1667 – 1878, by Everets and Farriss. In 1827, an institution was founded at Whitestown, first called the Oneida Academy, later known as the Oneida institute, established by the Oneida Presbytery. The purpose was to educate young men for the gospel ministry, but other young men of good character were also received as students. The extensive revivals prevailing the preceding years had turned the attention of many young men, especially within the Presbyterian Church, to the work of the ministry, and to other kindred forms of Christian services. The characteristics of the early management of the seminary were – the combination of manual and mental labor, the substitution of Hebrew and Greek Scriptures for the ordinary classical course, **and the free admission of**



THE WHITESTOWN SEMINARY, MAIN STREET, WHITESBORO (ONEIDA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER/THE HISTORY OF ONEIDA COUNTY, 1977). THE COMPLEX WAS ADAPTED FOR INDUSTRIAL USE IN THE 1890S. TODAY, A PORTION OF THE CENTRAL STRUCTURE REMAINS, ALBEIT HEAVILY MODIFIED.



THE BUILDING AS IT APPEARS TODAY

young men of all classes and colors to the privileges of the institution.

Students were required to do manual labor, either on the farm or in the workshop, not less than four hours each day. This was to 'preserve the health of the students, increase the number of educated men, promote

the spirit of enterprise and independence, tend to the bodily and mental energy, and exhibit an example of industry'. The college was considered to be very rigorous and strict.

In 1845, the school was consolidated with the Clinton Seminary, a denominational school established at Clinton in 1841. The two institutions have since been known as the Whitestown Seminary. It has been reliably stated that "not less than ten thousand young men and young women have been helped to higher ideals of manhood and womanhood by the discipline and nurture here afforded." Among these individuals was, of course, George Dunham.

The main building still stands today, at least for the time-being, albeit mostly unrecognizable from the early rendering. It has served a variety of industrially-related uses since the 1890s, including the Whitesboro Workshop for the Central N.Y. Association for the Blind in the 1970s. It is located directly behind the Dimbleby Funeral Home at 40 Main Street.

It has been identified by the Village of Whitesboro as one of a number of structures that are within the footprint of the floodplain that were adversely impacted. As part of their mitigation efforts with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it has been proposed for demolition. While it has some striking historical significance due to its very early ties to the abolitionist movement, the size and substantial alteration of the structure over time coupled with the significant flooding issues makes for a very difficult case for preservation. Landmarks has been involved with the Historic Preservation Specialist from FEMA regarding this structure through Trustee Michael J. Lehman, AIA. There has been some talk of erecting an historic marker at or near the location of the building, but it appears that its demolition is imminent.

Annual Meeting, Dinner, and Awards Ceremony

Thursday, November 17th, 2022

Roselawn, 446 Main Street, New York Mills, NY | \$30 / Person

Please make reservations and send checks made out to

Landmarks Society of Greater Utica by close of business on Monday, November 14th.

Re: Annual Dinner

c/o Mike Bosak, 8676 North Main Street, Canastota, NY 13032

*Note: Checks will **not** be cashed until the day of the event*

Do not delay -- Make Reservations Today!

Dinner will be the Deluxe Buffet, including:

**Baked Virginia Ham • Roast Beef Au Jus • Baked Chicken • Sausage & Peppers in Sauce
Pasta with Red Sauce • Seasoned Potatoes • Seasoned Vegetables • Deluxe Chef Salad
Rolls and Butter • Tea and Coffee**

Program will be the History of New York Mills to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of that village.

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Cash Bar Cocktail Hour

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | Dinner and Program

8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | Awards Ceremony

Any questions, call Mike Bosak at 315.254.1080



"Holiday Spirits with the Ghost Seekers of Central New York"

A new twist on a haunted tour of Utica's most famous mansion

**@ #3 Rutger Park, the Miller/Conkling/Kernan Mansion
Saturday, December 3rd, 2022**

**Every 15 minutes beginning at 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
Limit 10 persons per slot**

\$20 / person **Tickets will be available online (Eventbrite) with limited walk-up tickets.**

Members of the Ghost Seekers of Central New York will guide participants through areas of The Mansion where paranormal activity has been found.

There will be tarot readings by Medium Irene Crewell
(\$40/person for a 20 minute reading)

All proceeds to benefit the Landmarks Society

Bus Trip To Florissante, The Mansion (Lyons Falls, NY) (and points North)

FRIDAY, December 2, 2022

**\$65 / person 8:00 a.m. departure from MWPAL parking lot on the
corner of Cottage and Hart Streets **Note new parking lot**

***Secondary pick-up point will be at DeSantis Meat Market parking lot,
Mapledale, for those located north of Utica around 8:15 a.m.***

Buffet lunch (included) will be at Awesome Country, Boonville

Please make reservations and send checks made out to

Landmarks Society of Greater Utica by close of business on Monday, November 28th.

Re: Bus Trip

c/o Mike Bosak, 8676 North Main Street, Canastota, NY 13032

*Note: Checks will **not** be cashed until the day of the event*

*Who doesn't love a good period drama? Florissante the Mansion sure does, and this place has seen it all!
Murder mystery, sibling rivalry, ties to presidents past, and even the Titanic! Tour this historic mansion built in 1886
after a devastating fire destroyed the pre-civil war stone mansion on December 9, 1884.*

Tentative Itinerary

(Please note that this is subject to change)

Forest Presbyterian Church

Florissante, The Mansion

Awesome Country (lunch buffet – included!) and shopping - candies, condiments, dips, edible items

Park United Methodist Church, Prospect

Prospect Falls Winery (wine tasting of up to seven varieties included in the cost of the trip!)

Hudon's Antique Snowmobile Museum

Don't Delay -- Make Reservations Today!

**Note: The 2022
Holiday House Tour
has been cancelled**

***A Paint and Sip event is
in the works, stay tuned
on social media for
upcoming details!***

Christmas at Florissante, The Mansion - Open House!

4236 Lyons Falls Road, Lyons Falls (Lyonsdale), NY

"A rich history and a bright future".

Stunningly decorated for the Christmas Season!

Since 1829, Florissante The Mansion has stood the test of time in Lyons Falls, NY. If walls could talk, oh the stories she would tell! Now, the mansion is a charming bed and breakfast and event venue, a reminder of the grandeur of the past with the comfort and convenience of modern amenities.

It is located on 73 acres on the Tug Hill Plateau. It is a beautiful and historic mansion that now serves as a B&B and Event Center.

The Lyon family settled the land in the early 1800s and twice built on the same site. It was the stately stone home of Lyman R. Lyon and was originally built circa 1829 but was destroyed by fire in 1884. One of Mr. Lyon's three daughters, Florence Merriam spent 6 years rebuilding, beginning in 1889. Mrs. Merriam named it "Florissante"; it has been more recently known as "The Ski Lodge" and/or "The Mansion". Elements of the rebuilt structure are reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's early work in Oak Park, Illinois.

Lyonsdale and Lyons Falls were so named because of the Lyons family influence in the area.

In December, 2017, the new caretaker, Stuart De Camp, who is the great, great grandson of Lyman R. Lyon, and great, great grandnephew of Florence Merriam, took possession of this historic gem. After some much-needed T.L.C. and a few systems upgrades, "Florissante, The Mansion" began a new and exciting chapter in its historic existence in Lewis County.

Lyons Falls was known for **The Gould Paper Company**. Gordias H.P. Gould was the founder. After previously owning a saw and pulp mill a mile up the Moose River in partnership with the daughters of Lyman Lyon, he purchased property at the junction of the Black and Moose Rivers at Lyons Falls and built a paper mill, which opened in 1895. In 1902, Mr. Gould built a home built of Gouverneur marble across from the mill. It was designed and construction was supervised by the architect of the Forest Presbyterian Church. The mansion is still in existence, but is in private ownership and not accessible to the public.

His son, Harry P. took over the company after his father's death in 1919. Gordon H.P. Gould took over as president of the company in 1938, and the mill became the largest employer in the area. In 1945, Continental Can purchased the mill and produced specialty paper and newsprint. In 1956, Lyons Falls Paper Corporation took over operations. They put in a hardwood pulping plant, the first paper maker in the nation to use this process. It was sold a number of times after that, finally closing for good in 2000. It remains a skeleton on Center Street, reminding the people of Lyons Falls what was once the village's largest enterprise.

Forest Presbyterian Church is a historic church located in Lyons Falls in Lewis County. It was built in 1894 and is a one-story, brown-stained, eclectic, pitched roof building with a front-facing gable, a unique square bell tower with flared eaves, and a porte cochere. The church was built in the Shingle Style with Gothic elements. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places through the National Park Service on March 13, 2009.



**FLORISSANTE, THE MANSION
AS IT APPEARS TODAY**



**FLORISSANTE, THE MANSION
HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH**



**FOREST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4109 CENTER STREET, LYONS FALLS, NY**

CAFÉ DOMENICO CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

Orin and Kim Domenico are good people.

They are easy to talk to, highly intelligent, and very interesting to listen to.

And the story they tell of their journey that has resulted in 20 years in the heart of the Uptown district is equally fascinating.

Café Domenico at 2011 Genesee Street is funky, comfy, bluesy, chic, trendy, eclectic, artsy, and quirky, just exactly what you'd want a local neighborhood coffee shop to be. It reflects the lives and personalities of the owners, and that's just perfect. Orin describes it as "Italian Roman Catholic Baroque", and somehow, that fits.

And it was a total and complete leap of faith on the part of Orin and Kim, who quit their full-time jobs (Orin as an English teacher, Kim as a teacher and minister) to start a little urban coffee shop. They had the inspiration, they had the vision, but the truth is, they knew nothing about the business of running a coffee shop. So, Orin became a voracious researcher in all aspects of the art of the coffee shop. He studied them, he read up on them, and they visited a wide variety of the coolest, hippest coffee shops around, some in New York City, and others in Saratoga Springs, among others. Then he studied how to write up a business plan, again something he had no previous knowledge of or experience with. By the time he was done, he wrote what he was told by someone at the bank to be the best business plan they ever read. However, their finances were tight, and they had no back-up cash, so they were ultimately turned down for a loan to start up. But a few generous investors who believed in the vision were willing and able to front the money, and along with cashing in a CD and maxing out their credit cards, the dream took shape.

The search for the perfect location was also a journey. Their original concept was to be in the heart of downtown, but there was nothing available at the time. They looked at a ton of places, but to no avail. Then, as fate would have it, Kim and Orin were walking in their uptown neighborhood when they noticed that a storefront that had been a coffee shop on the corner of Genesee Street and Emerson Avenue was now vacant, and voila!

The transformation into Café Domenico began to take place through a lot of sweat equity and the hard work of numerous volunteers. Orin built most of the original cabinetry, some of which still remains today. Central to the charm of the place is the "up-and-down" spaces: an upper lounge, a small loft, and, of course, the "up the stairs and down the hall" restroom.

Some of the inspiration for the shop comes from the writings of James Hillman, specifically, the quote: "A city needs places where people can meet face to face". Another inspiration is a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "For years, I labored under the idea of reforming the existing institutions of the society, a little change here, a little change there. Now I feel quite differently. I think you have got to have a reconstruction of the entire society, a revolution of values". There are generations of Domenico family photos displayed, a voluminous collection of postcards, priceless vinyl album covers, primarily of classic blues recordings, and a small library where one can leave a book or purchase one for a nominal fee. There is perpetual music in the background, often blues, but just as often a pleasantly eclectic mix.

One inspirational model has been Joe's Restaurant on Pellettieri Avenue in East Utica (sometimes referred to as Spaghetti Joe's), a very basic, unassuming place that everybody knows about and everyone loves. Like Joe's, the Café is "a place you want in your life". "Souls need stability", and Café Domenico seeks to provide a slice of that stability in the lives of their customers.

Central to the Café's core mission is to provide locally produced, and organic products, where possible. That is, except for the coffee. It is 100% organic, of course, but comes from Nicaragua. They have had a fantastic working relationship with their long-time distributor, Martin Mayorga, who is one of the top Latin



THE OTHER SIDE



CAFÉ DOMENICO



KIM AND ORIN DOMENICO



THE PICTURE WALL

business owners in the world. Their bagels come from the Bagel Grove, and pastries from La Bakerie. Orin understood the niche market of the “older Italian gentlemen” who love to “hang out” and chat at a small, comfortable coffee house, and that has been a staple of Café Domenico since the outset. One group in particular, a group of 6 – 7 Italian guys, who refer to themselves “The Proctor Grads,” has been on such staple group. He also understood that the appeal needed to be universal and eclectic, not catering to any particular age group, but to all age groups. For a long time, there was no WiFi internet, because the model was to encourage face to face interaction, but that eventually had to change, and it is available now.

While they don’t own the building, they have been fortunate to have a series of very good landlords. This arrangement has worked very well for them over the last 20 years. As a result of their success, many have encouraged them to “franchise” and open up secondary locations downtown, near the Munson Williams Pratt campus, in Clinton, and elsewhere. However, by the very nature of the Café, it is impossible to recreate the one-of-a kind feeling and ambience. They did, however, consider a wine and tapas bar on Varick Street a few years ago, but that did not come to fruition.

During the halcyon days of the Café and the Uptown district, and when Kim and Orin were somewhat younger with a lot more energy, it was open until midnight. Now, they are only open until 3pm, and while they would love to be open later, like most places there is a shortage of available labor. Today, their daughter, Molly, basically runs the show.

During the past 20 years, they have been the anchor for the Uptown District, and it is likely true that Uptown, including



the Uptown Theatre, is still an entity because of the existence of the Café. During the pandemic, they closed for a month to renovate and update (a little) the Café. But the essence of the Café remains the same, and that is a very good thing.

In 2007, **The Other Side** came into existence, in the space “on the other side” of the building that once housed the *Village Toy Shop* (owned by past trustee Susan McCulley). It is a direct offshoot of the Café vision, and is a space dedicated to and for art, programs and music (primarily local jazz). The list of performers reads like a Who’s Who of artists, including the great John Piazza and nationally-known recording artist (with a local connection) Jane Monheit.

“(Historic) Preservation is good for the soul,” so says Kim Domenico. Conversely, demolition is “bad for the soul”. Both Orin and Kim are staunch preservationists and long-time Landmarkers. They are past recipients of one of our annual Award of Merits.

Orin and Kim are definitely OKI!



CHILDS CHAPEL



MAIN GATEWAY

Scenic & Historic

SPOTLIGHT ON A LANDMARK - by Michael Lehman, AIA

The Silas D. Childs Memorial Chapel (1868-9)

Forest Hill Cemetery, Utica, New York

Just inside the iconic Gothic Revival main gateway (1900-1901) of Utica’s historic Forest Hill Cemetery (1849-50), stands the Childs Memorial Chapel. The cemetery was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places thanks to the efforts of LSGU trustee emeritus and past Oneida County Historian *Virginia B. Kelly* and others.

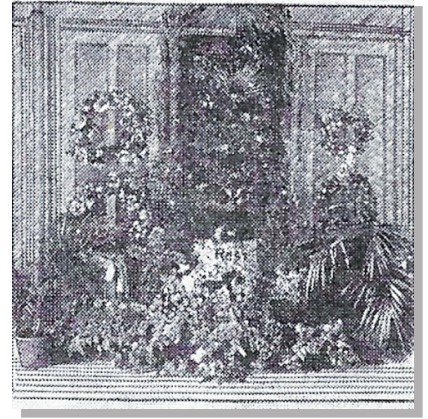
The burial ground, final resting place of generations of Uticans, both famous and ordinary, was designed in 1849 by Almerin Hotchkiss (1816-1903) of New York City in the rural cemetery tradition. In 1865, he was also retained to lay out a 65-acre expansion of the grounds to the east. Hotchkiss was a prominent landscape architect who began his career in 1838 as the superintendent of the new Brooklyn’s Green-Wood Cemetery, designed by David Bates Douglass and one of the first rural cemeteries in the country. Hotchkiss and Zebedee Cook worked together to expand the 178-acre cemetery by more than 200 acres, with a design that was consistent with Douglass’ original intent.

In 1849, Hotchkiss was given the commission to design Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri, the first designed large-scale rural cemetery west of the Mississippi River. He completed designs for projects

across the Mississippi River in Illinois, including Chippiannock Cemetery in Rock Island. In 1856, Hotchkiss was engaged to create plans for a 1200-acre university and suburb called Lake Forest, just 27 miles outside of Chicago. Platted in 1857, it was among the earliest, large-scale, commercial residential developments in the country.

About the Chapel

The chapel was designed by Forest Hill's landscape designer *Almerin Hotchkiss* and Utica architect *Thomas Birt* and constructed in 1868-69 of local coursed rubble sandstone, obtained from a quarry in Clinton, New York. The walls are complemented by limestone window sills, door sills, window surrounds, and buttress caps. The building is 60 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 35 feet high. A steeply pitched roof of green and purple/red scalloped-shaped slate covers the tall central section of the building. The one-story side aisles are covered with metal standing-seam roofing. Slate siding covers the exterior nave walls that extend above the aisles. Six pairs of Gothic-arched clerestory windows are located on the side walls of the nave. Iron gates and Gothic-arched paired wooden doors are located at the entrance. Along the exterior aisle walls and at the corners are sandstone buttresses. Finely-dressed limestone appears in the buttress caps, window sills, and jambs and surrounding the entrance. Simmons & Day, who operated the Forest Hill Cemetery Marble Works located at 21-23 Bleecker Street and a limestone yard on Washington Street, furnished the dressed limestone window and door trim. A stone Latin cross extends above the peak of the gable roof over the entrance.



SEN. ROSCOE CONKLING'S CASKET
AWAITING BURIAL IN CHILDS CHAPEL
(FROM UTICA SATURDAY GLOBE
ILLUSTRATION - APRIL 28, 1888)

The trustees awarded construction of the building to Chauncey Palmer (1807-1884), a cabinet maker who operated the first machine to plane wood in the region. Palmer's enterprises included the Phoenix Iron Works foundry, which he built near his carpentry shop on Blandina and First Street in Utica. Palmer served as a director of the Utica and Black River Railroad along with several founding cemetery trustees, and is buried at Forest Hill.

The structure was built to function as a chapel and also to fill the long-standing need for a dry, roomy, and attractive receiving vault. It could store 140 caskets in compartments on shelves when the ground was frozen during the winter. Senator Roscoe Conkling's casket laid in repose here prior to his burial in April of 1888.

The chapel fulfilled several functional requirements. The central nave space and transept were planned to serve as a small chapel, while the side aisles- originally separated from the nave by a row of heavy doors on either side of the building- were equipped to store about 140 departed individuals through the winter months. On the west end of the building, above the stone retable, an arched cluster of stained-glass windows measures six feet wide and seventeen feet tall. On the east end, a large colorful stained-glass window fills the space over the entrance. Herbert W. Lewis who operated his glass company from 1868 to 1879 at 13 Plant Street, Utica, created these windows.

To function properly, the building required a controlled interior atmosphere- maintaining the temperature as cool as possible and insuring excellent ventilation throughout the interior. To meet these needs, openings were located along foundation walls to allow cold air to enter the building, then rise and exit the upper area through a series of small cupolas projecting from the roof ridge. Because of the necessity for maintaining the chill, the chapel was never a comfortable winter funeral setting.

Winter funerals were held in the 1875 wood frame conservatory- now gone- until demolition and replacement by the 1926 iron and glass conservatory. Following the demolition of the 1926 conservatory in 1977, the chapel was rehabilitated for year around funerals by removal of former aisles and the addition of a heating system. Recent modifications to the interior have not reduced the chapel's character and integrity. One bay on each side of the nave, which originally stored coffins during winter months, has been adapted to hold niches for the location of cremains.

A design for the chapel was created initially by Utica architect *Thomas Birt*. According to cemetery records, *Almerin Hotchkiss* at that time resided in St. Louis; however, he returned to Utica briefly in 1867 to lay out the landscape design of the new 65-acre Roberts farm and reviewed the chapel plans. Hotchkiss suggested changes which modified Birt's *Romanesque* design into the final *Gothic Revival* design.

About the Donor

Silas D. Childs (1794-1866) was a founding trustee of the Utica Cemetery Association who made the first major bequest to the Forest Hill Cemetery trust fund and whose wife funded the cost of the cemetery's Childs Chapel. Upon arriving in Utica in 1816, Childs worked in the business office of stagecoach owner *Jason Parker* and then married Parker's daughter *Roxanna*. With *Theodore Faxton*, Childs invested in real estate. He also invested in the Utica Steam Cotton Mills, the Globe Woolen Mills, the American Express Co, and in the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad in Michigan. Childs served on the executive board of the Oneida County Agricultural Society and as president of the Utica Horticultural Society, horticulture being his main

leisure pursuit. His generous bequest to Hamilton College established a Professorship of Agricultural Chemistry.

Soon after completion of the chapel and its receiving vault, *Roxanna Parker Childs* donated \$16,000, the cost of the structure, in memory of her husband *Silas D. Childs* who had served as a cemetery trustee. She stipulated that the building would forever be open and free of cost to all. A very short time elapsed before Mrs. Childs herself died on July 19, 1870. A large white marble tablet, created by *Evan R. Jones* of Central Marble Works in Utica, was mounted by cemetery trustees in the chapel to commemorate her generosity

Today the chapel is a site for funerals and weddings. A bequest by *Charles Childs* in 1979 paid for the chapel's restoration. In 1979-80 in response to changing social attitudes and practices, cemetery leaders expanded the services offered at Forest Hill and niches were built along interior walls to hold cremains.

About the Architect

Thomas Birt was born in Leamington, England on August 17, 1834. In 1842 he came to Utica and as a young man learned the trade of mason. He apprenticed for years with *Azel J. Lathrop*, successful and prolific Utica architect and builder. Birt was practicing architecture in central New York by 1866. He did not believe in elaborate ornamentation, which was in fashion at the time, in his designs. Birt designed plans for numerous buildings on the North and Hudson Rivers. Among his Utica commissions were A.D. Mather family bank on Genesee Street, the Ballou Block, the Reynolds Building, the Jones Block, the Williams Building, several schools (1880s), and the Coram Building all now gone. He made plans for remodeling Utica's old city hall designed by *Richard Upjohn*, into the City Opera House. He designed the City Hospital in Rome (1878) and buildings for the Clinton Liberal Institute at Fort Plain (1878). In church architecture Birt's most notable work was Calvary Episcopal Church (1872), working with NYC architect and designer *Henry Martyn Congdon* (1834-1922) who specialized in churches. Congdon, a Columbia College graduate, designed numerous Episcopal churches across the country during his career, mainly in the Gothic Revival tradition. This church, now the Cathedral of the Theotokos of Great Grace, though threatened still stands at 1101 Howard Avenue & South St. near Rutger Park.

Birt died on October 19, 1893 and is buried near his parents at Forest Hill Cemetery.

Current Status and A Request

The cemetery is currently renovating the 1905 Receiving Vault, designed by Utica architect *Frederick Hamilton Gouge* FAIA, at the rear of the chapel into a crematorium. In the process, it has been discovered that a bulge in the rear masonry wall of the adjacent chapel has developed which threatens the structural integrity of the stained-glass window and more importantly that of the chapel wall.

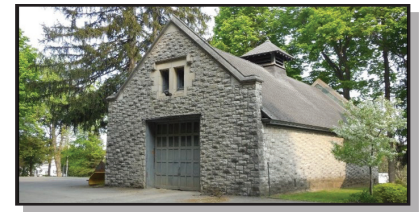
The need for funding is urgent and immediate, however the Cemetery Association's capacity to finance the chapel repairs is limited by the great expense of the crematorium project currently underway. A mechanism for receiving donations for the chapel wall repair are currently under investigation.

Once the mechanism is identified and in place, the Landmarks Society asks you to please consider a contribution to this worthy cause to save this important piece of our uniquely Utica story from possible damage and destruction. Your generous donation in any amount will help the Association to address this concern.

The Childs' gift and noble legacy will be preserved and the building will remain open and free of cost to use for all. Thank you.

"Let it not be present delight, nor for present use alone; let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think... that a time is to come when... men will say, *See! This our fathers did for us!*"

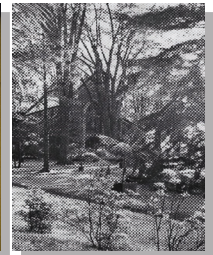
-John Ruskin



1905 RECEIVING VAULT



REAR STAINED-GLASS WINDOW
BY HERBERT W. LEWIS, UTICA



THE CHAPEL FROM
THE "TOUR", C. 1938

SOURCES: Clarke, T. Wood. UTICA for a century and a half. The Widtman Press. Utica, N.Y. 1952. • Forest Hill Cemetery Association publication, 1938. • Kelly, Virginia B. Forest Hill Cemetery National Park Service/National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018. 20. • OCHC archives- Thomas Birt biography • Photos: Virginia B. Kelly or as noted • Wikipedia. Calvary Episcopal Church (Utica, New York).2022. • Wikipedia. Henry Martyn Congdon. 2022.



THE PRESERVATIONIST

DVF Preservation Nation

Kendall Manor is a historic mansion in Eufaula, Alabama. It was built for planter James Turner Kendall and was designed by architect H. George Whipple in the Italianate style. Construction began prior to the outset of the America Civil War of 1861-1865, and it was completed in 1867. It remained in the Kendall family; by the 1970s, it belonged to Dr. Kendall Eppes, Kendall's great grandson. It has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places in January 14, 1972.



From Facebook, DVF Preservation Nation, Wikipedia, and Old Houses Before 1950.