



THE PRESERVATIONIST

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

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A Message from the President

Dear Landmarkers,

Despite not hearing much about many of them these days, many nearby historic preservation projects are still moving forward. Determination and patience have always been key ingredients in historic structure restoration. Thankfully, the folks involved in the projects I am going to mention here have large and equal amounts of both!

A fellow Landmarker told me about a restoration that will be taking place in nearby Amsterdam. The New York Power Authority and Canal Corporation will be restoring the Guy Park Manor House. The home was built for Guy Johnson in 1774. In addition to the complete restoration, the home will be raised nearly four feet so that the first floor is well above the 100-year flood elevation of the Mohawk River. What an incredible undertaking that will be. It is reassuring to see State-level involvement and assistance go to that home. All of New York needs more of this.

A number of years ago the Landmarks Bus Tour took us to the Gustav Stickley house in Syracuse. The home was completed in 1900. Gustav is known as the father of the American Arts & Crafts movement. The home is currently in a multi-year, multi-stage restoration with the exterior being stage one. I believe the exterior has now been completed. Quite a transformation and restoration on the front of the home! For proof, check out the photos on their website.

The City of Oneonta is hoping that a recent ranking will garner some interest and get some much-needed restoration underway. The New York Preservation League listed the city on their "Seven to Save" list this year. According to Stephen Yerly, Deputy Community Development Director for the City, there are a number of downtown buildings that are unoccupied and in need of repairs. Yerly states, "Oneonta's Downtown Historic District is not just a business district, it is representative of generations of hopes and dreams, it is an investment made by those who came before us and one that we will leave for those who come after".

Kudos to all the individuals involved in the above restoration efforts. Your determination inspires all of us.

Steve Grant

President



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022



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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.

A COMMUNITY DISGRACE

By Joseph Bottini

A library-full of history was lost when, during a moment of insanity, someone thought it would be a good idea to build a bridge from the corner of Wurz Ave and Genesee Street to Oriskany Street.

It is said that the reason was to bring traffic from the thruway and the North Country right into downtown - another scheme to rejuvenate downtown Utica.

IT DIDN'T WORK! Another failure that taxpayers suffered to financially support, only to see the city further decimated. The result of intended progress became another chapter in a long story of failures that were supposed to help Utica's business district rebound.

Note: One must note the recent progress (following a more than 25-year struggle) with the Harbor Point project and the entertainment opportunities at Oriskany Street surrounding the Utica Memorial Auditorium.

All of Bagg Square was devastated, including a pleasant northern entrance to the city. A moment of sanity would make one feel some sense of responsibility to an area that is the "cradle of Utica" - and the location of events that have significant attachment to the Indian culture, the early European pioneers and the American Revolutionary War. Old Fort Schuyler - the fort - was a major place of importance for a portion of the Great Pass that traversed this region. Old Fort Schuyler - the community - was the incubator for a future city - Utica.

This one neighborhood housed the following nationally and/or internationally significant places: headquarters (1850) of the American Express Company, home of the innovative newspaper that led to the modern newspaper industry, an international (world-leading)

fishing tackle company, location of a leading clothing manufacturing company that contributed to Utica becoming the world's leader in that industry, home of a shoe manufacturer/distributor that made Utica a world leader in the shoe industry, location of the hotel of a nationally renowned land developer, home of twice governor of New York State and a candidate for president of the United States, one of the last of the old-time saloon-restaurant that provided the first public lecture hall/ ballroom in Utica, location of the Samuel Morris experiment lab and subsequent development of the first public telegraph company (1845), the development and sales headquarters of the telegraph key - and the list goes on to include many locally prominent places of business as well as examples of fine 19th and 20th century architecture - all destroyed.

Except for the exceptional "marble palace" railroad station, the miracle performed by the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica (1974) that saved Union Station, most of the others are GONE!

It is inconceivable that our local government leaders would not understand the importance of preserving the cradle of Utica. How does one justify the desecration of the location of Utica's birth? How do today's leaders justify ignoring this simple commemorative park dedicated to the memory of a once robust neighborhood? Where is their sense of community pride, respect for the past and honor for the legacy of one of Utica's most prominent families?

During a recent evaluation of Utica's parks, Bagg Commemorative Park was left off the list. When I inquired as to the reason why this slight was unceremoniously perpetrated, the answer given was astounding - "We are just doing the major parks" was uttered without any sense of shame.

It appears that the size of a park is the determinate factor of a park's importance - to some people. At least, that is the indication given by folks in authority. This experience spoke loudly and clearly, unwittingly exposing an ignorance that should prohibit anyone from being worthy of making decisions for our city.

Bagg Commemorative Park is not just a little, non-important piece of real estate buried under a monstrosity bridge, left to be mourned by those of us who understand and respect local history. IT IS THE LEGACY OF A MAGNANIMOUS BENEFACITOR OF ANOTHER ERA!

It all began with the erecting of a blacksmith shop/Inn hotel on the NE corner of Main and John Streets. Moses Bagg Sr. began as a blacksmith and found many folks, in their migration west, needed a place to stay on their stopover to get supplies and a horse re-shod. Early on he realized there was more of an entrepreneurial opportunity in providing a place of rest for people rather than a blacksmith shop for horse care.

From a modest "shack" (1795) to a modest wooden building, Bagg's Hotel and Tavern became a landmark with the brick edifice later erected by his son, Moses Bagg Jr. in 1815. This hostelry went through many proprietors and cycles of boom and normalcy until 1869 when Thomas R. Proctor purchased the business. After a period of growth, he tired of the proprietorship and leased it to D. M. Johnson. Upon Thomas Proctor's death in 1920, his widow Maria Williams Proctor inherited the ownership deed.

By 1932, Utica had many more-modern hotels - Hotel Utica, Hotel Martin (later Hamilton) and others. Maria made the decision to raze the old, tired and well-worn building that stood

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, device, 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!

Ted & Joan Rajchel
Elaine Atkinson
Barbara Cavaretta
Kathryn Snell
Judy Galimo
Alan & Linda Vincent
Lorraine Fava
Sharon Mc Nerney

John Pierson
Karen Neary
Christina M. Paniccia
Barbara & Joe Granato
Barbara Wuest
David & Janet George
Nancy Gozy
Joan & Duane Patocka Hatcher

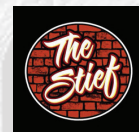
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Anthony Sullivan
Charles & Margaret Higgerson
Betty Lou Frye
Richard & Connie Griffith
Marian Giunta Wilson
Marietta von Bernuth

Mrs. Walter Green Kincaid
Frances Giruzzi
Carol Adams
Rita Shannon
Franklin Sciacca
Don & Joan Dorn
Joe & Mary Bottini

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



**The Tianaderrah
Foundation**



so proudly on that corner for many years.

She then had a memorial building constructed on the SE corner of the property. Maria intended the building to become a mini-museum and repository for the valuable historic records from the glory days of the hotel's existence. This intended purpose was never fully realized.

The visitors register read like a "Who's Who" of national and international luminaries of the 19th and early 20th century.

Bagg's Hotel played host to folks such as: Thomas Moor, Irish Poet; Arron Burr, Vice President of the USA; Washington Irving, writer-author; Henry Clay, statesman -presidential candidate; Louis Kossuth, Hungarian Prince; Charles Dickens, writer; Chester A. Arthur, President; Grover Cleveland, governor-President; Miss Marian Anderson, entertainer; Carrie Nation, Women's Temperance Movement; and many other U.S. Presidents, and dignitaries - domestic and foreign.

Upon the destruction of the hotel, Maria had a park created (Bagg Commemorative Park) and a memorial building erected (Proctor Memorial Building) in memory of her husband. The total Bagg Commemorative Park project cost Maria Proctor approximately \$60,000 - a huge sum in 1933. By today's currency value, it is a little over one million dollars. I take it upon myself to apologize to Maria Proctor for denigrating her legacy. She gifted it all to the city of Utica.

Surrounding the perimeter of that park was a beautiful stone wall. It has been left, by benign neglect, to deteriorate into an eyesore. The gorgeous stone wall that marks the circumference of the old hotel building is slowly losing its majestic presence. No sign exists to indicate the name or importance of this small, but historically prestigious urban park - a place of respite.

The memorial building received some needed repairs during the summers of 2014-15. Jerry Loomis (Elfun Society) designed the new electrical system and supervised the work - being there every day.

Joe Kelly said it best; "That building needs a permanent purpose in order to have it continually maintained." It has had many short-term occupants over the years.

Some of the uses of the memorial were: headquarters of the Oneida Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution - including their extensive genealogy resources; a medical clinic, Military Police headquarters during World War II, and local boy scout troops meeting place among others.

In most recent years, the tenet was the Elfun Society and their Christmas on Main Street displays. COVID-19 and more-than-normal vandalism have forced Elfun members: Jerry Loomis, Dave Reichert, Tony Mirachi, and John Stephenson to announce the discontinuing of their herculean efforts with this Christmas project. They housed the decorations in the memorial building and often spent hours refurbishing the Christmas displays.

It has been said, the manner in which a people maintain that which they inherit is an indicator of the caliber of their character.

From the lofty goal of a mini-museum to being used as a "storage shed" and "repair shop" for Christmas displays is indicative of the lack of respect for the legacy of one of the most prolific benefactors in Utica's history - Maria Williams Proctor. However, it is now uncertain what the future will be for this lonely park. The unkindest cut of all is the lack of respect for one of Utica's most historic locations. I say, all the august leaders of our community ought to feel a tinge of shame and remorse for allowing this benign neglect to continue.

This Bagg Commemorative Park and Proctor Memorial Building have been on life- support for many years. With the withdrawal of the Christmas display commitment by the Elfun Society, the patient's well-being is in grave danger. It has now been taken off life-support and is waiting to die of neglect; unless a Florence Nightingale comes to rescue this important patient.

OLMSTED CITY

By Phil Bean

Olmsted City officially ended its work season at F.T. Proctor Park in October, and what a season it has been! Over the course of about 7 month, Olmsted City carried out the following projects: a post-winter cleanup day that removed 35 bags of trash that had accumulated during the snowy and cold months; creation of the "Peace Garden" around an historic 1913 stone feature, a project that entailed creating a walkway and a flower bed in which we planted over 400 native plants and installed 3 benches; repair of the base of a stone staircase built in the 1930s by the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA), installation of a 250-square-foot patio and enhanced drainage (the area had previously been prone to flooding); recreation of another 1913 feature of the park, a carriage circle on the other side of the creek,

around which we planted 1600 trees, shrubs, and perennial native plants and installed 2 benches.

Meanwhile, Olmsted City also tended to more mundane tasks like weeding planting beds, expanding a new bed at the top of the park's ravine and planting more shrubs and two yellowbird magnolias flanking it; this is part of a multiyear undertaking to rehabilitate this corner of the park and to transform it (like the new Peace Garden and the recreated carriage circle) into a destination for park visitors. We also installed a bench at the head of the stone staircase we repaired and carried out periodic trash sweeps over the course of the season and were generally pleased to find relatively little trash strewn about the park, with the periodic exception of the parking lot.

Speaking of the parking lot, we are delighted that not only will the City of Utica carry out a long-overdue restoration of the entire lot next year, but they have begun work on building a new pavilion in that part of the park. This new structure will be larger, more decorative, and historically more appropriate for a park built in 1914 (even if its design is contemporary, it will be harmonious with the vintage and pedigree of the park)--and most exciting of all, this new structure will include restrooms, the lack of which has been a major problem at this park for some time.

However, the biggest event of our season was our ongoing campaign to raise funds to restore the Lily Pond, an original feature designed by Olmsted and built in 1913, which has been slowly falling apart for years. Despite its condition, it remains a very popular destination, and it is the largest surviving original piece of Olmsted hardscaping in Utica's sprawling, largely Olmsted-designed parks and parkway system. To date, we have raised an impressive \$150,000 toward this project, which will also entail landscaping with benches, trees, and shrubs alongside the creation of a new winding Olmsted-inspired pathway that will unite the Lily

Pond and several other important features of the park that are not connected in any user-friendly, historically-appropriate manner.

The campaign for the Lily Pond continues until December 31. Up to that point, every dollar donated to Olmsted City will go toward this project, and despite having our architects calculate fairly conservative cost estimates, we will not know the final cost until we put this out for bids in late November. So, if you have not made your tax-deductible contribution to this project--one of the Landmarks Society's biggest undertakings in recent years--you can make out a check to "Olmsted City" and mail it to Olmsted City, P.O. Box 8597, Utica, NY 13505. Alternatively, you can give online at www.olmstedcity.org. And please keep in mind that, just like the rest of the Landmarks Society, Olmsted City is entirely volunteer-run (not counting the need to hire professional contractors to do masonry work), we have no paid staff, and currently only 93% of your dollar goes into improvements at the park (the remaining 7% is for our newsletter and other communications needs).



Scenic & Historic

SPOTLIGHT ON A LANDMARK

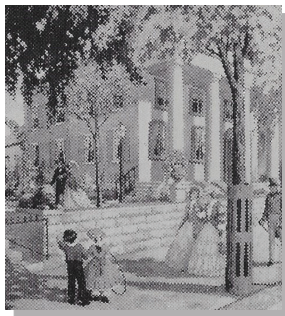
by Michael Lehman, AIA

The Savings Bank of Utica (1900)

In downtown Utica, one building stands imperious above the rest at 233 Genesee Street, a temple to thrift--**"The Bank with the Gold Dome"**.



JOHN C. DEVEREUX



A.B. JOHNSON MANSION



THE BANK WITH MANSION, RIGHT

Imagine our city without this iconic landmark which opened in February of 1900, at the peak of Utica's prosperity. At the dawn of the 20th century it became the fourth home of the Savings Bank of Utica. SBU was first chartered in 1821 by *John C. Devereux* and his brother *Nicholas* with a second charter in 1839. From the very beginning the Devereux brothers pioneered the savings bank concept two years prior to the opening of the first savings bank in America at Philadelphia. SBU was built on the former site of the Greek revival style mansion of lawyer *John H. Lothrop*

later owned by *Alexander B. Johnson*. Johnson's wife, Abigail, was a granddaughter of US President John Adams. The first major commercial building built in the then upscale residential neighborhood, the bank design was a free-standing structure with a scale and detailing a bit more sympathetic to the adjacent homes than the multistory commercial style bank buildings typical for downtown. Nevertheless, the bank's arrival signaled the departure of fashionable residents to locations further south on Genesee Street.

About the Building

The design by English architect *Robert Williams Gibson, AIA* (1854-1927) of New York City features ornate details in light grey limestone. They delight the eye- a stately but exuberant explosion of Corinthian columns, entablatures, pediments, door and window surrounds, cartouches, urn finials and of course the dazzling 23-karat gold leaf, 90-foot-high center dome. The signature dome was suggested by *Thomas R. Proctor*, one of the bank's directors, and was based on one he had seen on a church in Florence, Italy.

No expense was spared in Gibson's monumental neoclassical Beaux Arts scheme. The design was very likely influenced by his involvement on a jury for the design of the New York State pavilion at the 1899-1901 Pan American Exposition in Buffalo. Similar domed bank buildings in this architectural style popular in the early 1900s were built in Albany and Buffalo.

The imposing, interior two-story main banking hall featured a tellers' area centered under the dome which was supported on an octagonal base of eight elaborate arches, a mezzanine level, state-of-the-art Dieboldt vault topped by a clock, and ceiling murals by noted painter *Frederick Augustus Marshall*.

Bank Place was not laid out until 1914 when the Arts and Crafts style *Mayro Building* and rear one-story retail shop wing were constructed. In 1929, as the bank expanded with more customer service departments, a 30-foot wing of like design was added to the north of the original building and a 10-foot addition to the rear. The mezzanine level was expanded, new front and rear parking lot entrances opened, and the ceiling under the inside of the dome was lowered. A pool with fountain eventually replaced the central tellers' area after they were moved to the sides of the banking hall in 1964. A new 50,000 square foot International style concrete annex adjacent to the main building was opened in 1979. Subsequent owners *Partners' Trust* and currently *M & T Bank* have used the main building as a branch location. The annex is occupied by administrative offices for Bassett Health Care of Cooperstown.

About the Architect

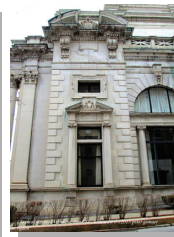
Born in Essex, England, Robert Williams Gibson trained at the *Royal Academy of Arts* in London, graduating in 1879. He began his career in the United States at Albany in 1881 where he was described as "a likeable young Englishman". In 1890 he married Caroline J. Hammond and moved his practice to New York City. His works included several large Manhattan churches, a number of prominent residences and institutional buildings.

While in Albany, he collaborated closely with Episcopal bishop *William Doane* completing projects as varied as the *Lodge* (1882) and *Chapel* (1884) at *Albany Rural Cemetery*, several large residences (1884 & 1887) on *Englewood Place* -a private enclave in Washington Park, the *Episcopal Cathedral of All Saints* (1884-1904)- Gibson having won a design competition over an entry submitted by *H.H. Richardson* who was working in Albany at the time on the new City Hall), renovations and additions to *St. Peter's Episcopal Church* (1885-1886), and the *National Commercial Bank* (1887)-now Key Bank founded in 1827.



Other works included:

- *Notlymere* (1885), a large shingle style house in Cazenovia, NY
- *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church* (1889-1890) in Olean, NY



ORIGINAL TELLERS' AREA UNDER DOME



MAIN VAULT



GENESEE STREET FAÇADE UNDER CONSTRUCTION



THE DOME UNDER CONSTRUCTION



ORIGINAL BUILDING PRIOR TO OPENING OF BANK PLACE



THE 1929 ADDITION AT LEFT WITH 1979 ANNEX AT FAR LEFT

- The *Onondaga County Savings Bank* (1897) on South Salina Street at Clinton Square in Syracuse, NY. –at eleven stories that city's first steel frame building
- *Christ Episcopal Church* (1888), Herkimer, NY
- A remodeled *St. Paul's Cathedral* (1888- designed by Richard Upjohn) in Buffalo
- Utica's first steel frame 10 story "skyscraper" for the *City National Bank at 110 Genesee Street* (1903) in collaboration with prominent local architect *Frederick Hamilton Gouge, FAIA*
- Colonial Eating Club (1906)- Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

His works in New York City ranged from *St. Michael's Episcopal Church* (1890), *the Music Hall and Randal Memorial Church at Sailors' Snug Harbor* (1890-1893), and the *Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies building* (1892) to a townhouse for Morton F. Plant (1905) at *651 Fifth Avenue* designed with *Cass P.H. Gilbert*. Since 1917 this townhouse has served as *Cartier Jewelers'* landmark flagship store in Manhattan.

Gibson also served as President of the Architectural League of New York (1889-1899) and as Director and Executive Committee member for the American Institute of Architects (1900). According to his New York Times obituary, Gibson died on Long Island at Woodbury, NY in 1927.

Conclusion

The major contribution this much beloved landmark makes to Utica's unique identity and authenticity of place- which is so highly prized by heritage tourists, potential downtown residents & developers, and movie production crews scouting special locations- cannot be underestimated. The building is yet another example of several landmarks by nationally prominent architects which still grace our city. Unfortunately, an equal number have been lost. Continued responsible stewardship is essential to preserving Gibson's iconic architectural gem for many generations to come.

SOURCES: Bottini, Joseph P. and Davis, James L. Utica Then & Now. Arcadia Publishing. Charleston, South Carolina. 2007. • Clarke, T. Wood. UTICA for a century and a half. The Widtman Press. Utica, New York. 1952. • Oneida County History Center archives • Waite, Diana S. (ed). Albany Architecture: A Guide to the City. Matthew Bender IV- Mount Ida Press Partnership in association with the Preservation League of New York State. Albany, New York. 1993. • Wikipedia. Robert Williams Gibson. 2022.



CHAPEL- ALBANY RURAL CEMETERY



THE EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL OF ALL SAINTS- ALBANY, NY



O. C. SAVINGS BANK- SYRACUSE, NY



NOTLYMERE- CAZENOVIA, NY



CITY NATIONAL BANK- UTICA, NY



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH- HERKIMER, NY



COLONIAL CLUB- PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, NJ



M.F. PLANT TOWNHOUSE, 651 FIFTH AVE., NYC



CARTIER JEWELERS, MANHATTAN

NEWS FROM AROUND GREATER UTICA

By Michael Bosak, Editor

[New York Mills Celebrates 100 Years!](#)

The Village of New York Mills was incorporated in 1922, but its history dates back to the post-Revolutionary War era. Harnessing water power of the Sauquoit Creek, several cottage industries evolved to serve the rapid westward expansion of the fledgling country. This became the first commercial manufacturing establishment in Oneida County. From a humble gristmill and sawmill that opened in 1788 developed cheesecloth making to serve the local dairy farmers. This eventually evolved into a major textile manufacturing concern that had a national reputation.

Benjamin Walcott, a Scottish man, arrived from Rhode Island in 1800, and organized the Walcott & Company. He opened the

Oneida Factory that took advantage of the water power of the Sauquoit Creek. In 1810, it became incorporated as the Oneida Manufacturing Society. A large stone mill was built in 1827 midway between the original gristmill and sawmill and the Oneida Factory in what would become the center of the village. A wealthy New York City businessman, Benjamin Marshall, financed the operation and named it The New York Mill after his hometown; it was incorporated into the New York Mill Corporation in 1851. Samuel Campbell, born in Scotland and an expert in spinning, was brought into the company in 1847. He quickly rose to the position of General Manager, and eventually took over the operation from Walcott.

Campbell and Walcott were seen as benevolent, and even paternalistic to their workers. They were strong supporters of the Union in the Civil War, and contributed greatly to the community. They were leaders in the development of the textile industry, and the company flourished. Each built identical Greek Revival-style mansions set on eastern hillsides overlooking the mills, and William D. Walcott (Benjamin's son) built a magnificent Italianate mansion on Main Street. Campbell's estate became what is now Twin Ponds. Benjamin Walcott's mansion became abandoned for many years and was eventually demolished for housing on what became Wadas Drive and William Walcott's was also torn down and is now the location of the Cedar Ridge Apartments.

Two large boarding houses and 22 company-owned cottages were built to help house workers. Steam power replaced water power in the 1880s. Around 1878, a large influx of Polish immigrants began to settle in the village.

The second generation of Campbells and Walcotts were not noted for their fiscal and business responsibility, and the company began to fail. In 1909, the mills were sold to the A.D. Julliard Co. from New York City, the same family responsible for the famous Julliard School of Music. However, Julliard was more interested in profit than the proper treatment of employees, and a series of strikes occurred after the mill workers unionized. Workers gained much-deserved concessions, but things were never quite the same.

The World Wars proved to be profitable for the company as they received government contracts. After World War II, profitability fell dramatically. In the early 1950s, Julliard left New York Mills for cheaper, non-unionized labor in the south, defaulting on pensions and leaving workers without employment.

On a personal note, I grew up in "The Mills," and it truly was a great place to grow up. We all knew our neighbors (and liked them!), we never locked our doors (at least when I was quite young), and everyone watched out for each other. We had milk delivered from Holland Farms (even though we lived on the second floor), and there were at least two bakeries within walking or bike-riding distance, where my mother would occasionally send me to get a loaf of fresh bread that the bakery would have to put into the slicer (a deadly and fascinating-looking machine with multiple blades that would cut the whole loaf into individual slices). There were three grocery stores that my mother would frequent (clipping coupons worth 5 or 7 cents each): A&P on Commercial Drive, Loblaws in the Whitestown Shopping Center, and later, P&C right down my street, Greenman Avenue. A small superette was a block and a half away on Main Street. The village park was a block away, and we were allowed to cut through our neighbor's yards to get there and back. Close friends I made growing up there are still close friends today. There were numerous locally-owned gas stations sprinkled throughout the village: a Flying "A" on the corner of Main Street and Campbell Avenue, a Shell station at the top of Greenman Avenue, and a Richfield station farther down Main Street.

New York Mills was unique in that it was a combination of a working-class village with literally hundreds of manufacturing jobs at three (at one time four) huge mills within walking distance, but also served as a "bedroom community" suburb of Utica, on a major Utica trolley (and, eventually, bus) line. The trolleys and tracks were long-gone when I grew up, although a few remnants did remain. One in particular was the divided bridge crossing the Sauquoit Creek at the confluence of Main Street and Burrstone Road. The trolley used a bridge adjacent to the road bridge; when the tracks were removed, eastbound traffic crossed over the creek on what was the trolley bridge until the entire structure was redone in the 1960s. The Roselawn was a small village tavern (one of many) located mid-village.

The mills were no longer world-class producers of textiles, as the A.D. Julliard Company, which was the final iteration of the mighty textile industry, had long-since relocated to the south, and they were repurposed for other uses. The #1 Mill was the second location for the Utica Cutlery (and we could see that huge structure from our kitchen window), #2 Mill was used for storage, and large farm machines were stored outside, and #3 Mill became Lally Manufacturing Corporation, which still did produce textiles in the form of thermal underwear. The "original" 1827 Federalist style mill building, which became part of the #2 mill, was standing but threatened by the elements as funding was being sought for stabilization and restoration when it collapsed on November 8, 1977.

“The Mills” was noted for its overwhelmingly large Polish immigrant population, followed by a number of Lebanese families. Another unique feature of the New York Mills with its adjacent villages is their proximity to one another. Whitesboro’s borders meld together into Yorkville, New York Mills, New Hartford, and Utica, almost seamlessly.

As with many other places, New York Mills is much different now than when I grew up, but it will always be “my hometown.”

Sto Lat!

(Polish for “May you live a hundred years)

Bibliography

Images of America, New York Mills by Eugene E, Dziedzic and James S. Pula, 2013, Arcadia Publishing

New York Mills Public Library (website), Story of a Village, by Wanda Misiaszek B. Finkle, 2019

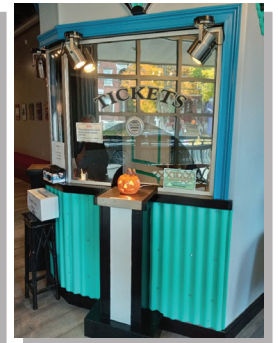
New Mural Unveiled on the Players of Utica Building

A Celebration of Utica Theatre and Arts – “A Tribute to Downtown Utica Theatres – Past and Present,” a mural by Maria Vallese of Retro-Sorrento.

Utica Monday Nite (UMN) and Players of Utica Board unveiled Utica’s newest wall mural on the Players Theatre at 1108 State Street on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. It commemorates the 25th anniversary of Lynne Mishalanie’s **Utica Monday Nite** that the Landmarks Society was involved with from the outset and continues on with our Monday Nite Walks and Talks series.



LYNNE MISHALANIE IN FRONT OF THE NEW MURAL



TICKET BOOTH INSIDE THE PLAYERS THEATRE

Heidelberg Café Continues To Evolve

An early morning fire on Easter Sunday morning in 2019 left the popular Heidelberg Bread and Café at 3056 State Route 28 a shambles. A fire inside the kitchen damaged both the kitchen and the café, and it has been closed ever since. The original plan was to rebuild and reopen the popular venue, but plans have changed, as they often do.

Boyd Bissell, owner of Heidelberg Bread, has created a replica of a Bavarian restaurant in what was once the production area.



BOYD BISSELL



Slate of Officers: Voted on at Annual Dinner Nov. 17th

Steve Grant, President
Mike Bosak, Vice President
(Education)

Karen Day, Vice President
(Programs / Events)
Dianne Nassar, Acting Secretary
Dianne Nassar, Treasurer

UTICA FIRE INSURANCE BUILDING PHOTO

Detail of former Utica Fire Insurance Building from tenth Floor window.

Photo by Jack Henke (1973)



About the photo:

"I took it during Christmas break of 1973, when I was a student at Brown University's Graduate School of Education. I had always admired what was called the "Fire Insurance Company Building," especially the carvings that adorned the structure's facade, and imagined that a close-up photo of one of the upper carvings, with Genesee Street as a background, might be worth taking.

I bounced the idea off my friend Michael Glover, a fellow member of UFA's Class of 1968, and he saw potential. So we borrowed a sturdy rope from his parents' garage, drove down to the building, and knocked on the locked front door. A watchman appeared and asked our purpose. After we explained, he readily agreed, let us in, and took us via elevator to the 10th floor. We opened a window that faced Genesee Street and tied the rope securely around me. Standing on the sill, with Michael (a rugged guy) straining on the rope, I leaned out and took several shots. As I recall, the watchman was highly entertained.

Yes, this was a "wild and crazy" stunt of youth. I doubt that it could be repeated today. However, I'm glad we took the photo and believe that it captures what the Landmarks' Society wishes to preserve.

I hope that you agree."

- Jack Henke

WE DO!



*The Officers and Trustees of
The Landmarks Society of Greater Utica
wishes all of you and your families*

A Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!

WINTER TALKS!

Landmarks is pleased to again offer a winter talk series to help fight the winter blahs and cabin fever!



Monday, January 23rd, 2023 · 6:00 pm

**Dunham Public Library Community Room,
76 Main Street, Whitesboro**

Frank Tomaino – Observer-Dispatch Columnist and Historian

***“The Lost Neighborhood and Downtown
Theatres of Utica”***

Monday, February 20th, 2023 · 6:00 pm

**Dunham Public Library Community Room,
76 Main Street, Whitesboro
Details to follow in the next newsletter**

Monday, March 20th, 2023 · 6:00 pm

**New Hartford Public Library Sammon Room,
2 Library Lane, New Hartford**

Joe Bottini, Oneida County Historian

“Historic Places Lost, Stolen or Strayed”

Monday, April 24th, 2023 · 6:00 pm

**New Hartford Public Library Corasanti Room,
2 Library Lane, New Hartford**

Jack Henke, Author

“A Natural Landmark – The Story of Oneida Lake”

**Historically Happy Hour returns in March at Bagg Square Brewery, date to be determined
Look for more details in the next newsletter!**

Thank You!

Bus Trip to Florissante, the Mansion and Points North, Dec. 2

Stuart DeKamp and the volunteers at Florissante, the Mansion

Lorraine Murwin at Awesome Country Farmhouse in Boonville for an "over the top" buffet!

Park United Methodist Church, Prospect, Cindy Richards, Pastor David Hadeed, and Alec Morris (95 years young!)

Forest Presbyterian Church, Lyons Falls, Pastor Elizabeth Smith, and Katie Liendecker

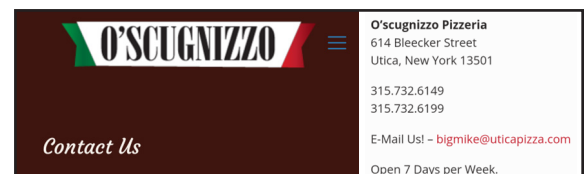
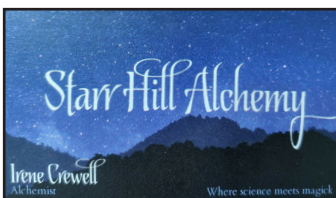
Christmas Spirits, Dec. 3

Special thanks to the Ghost Seekers of Central New York, especially

Dennis Webster, Bernadette Peck and Len Bragg, and to our Treasurer Dianne Nassar for an awesome event!

Thanks also to medium and tarot card reader Irene Crewell and to sponsors

Starbucks of New Hartford and O'Scugnizzo Pizzeria of Utica





THE PRESERVATIONIST

1846 Galloway House in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Purchased by Edwin H. Galloway in 1868 from Selim Newton. He converted the farmhouse, which then consisted of what is now the kitchen and summer kitchen, into this Midwestern version of an Italianate villa with Victorian elegance and beauty. In 1880, Edwin A. Galloway completed his father's plans. This charming and hospitable home has been restored close to its original appearance and has retained much of the original furnishings and decorations. Among the home's thirty rooms are a family living room, formal parlor, library-conservatory, dining room, spacious playroom, four family bedrooms, four additional servants' bedrooms and one of the first bathrooms in the state. Four fireplaces further decorate the home. A unique Italian-style red-roofed dome tops the residence and decorative woodwork is prevalent throughout the home's exterior and interior. Edwin P. Galloway, a grandson of the original owner, graciously donated the Galloway House to the Fond du Lac Historical Society on August 4, 1954.



Photograph and information available at Wisconsin Historical Marker and Wisconsin Historical Society.

Facebook, Historical Homes of America

Rand Carter, Landmarks Past President and Trustee Emeritus, said, regarding this house:

"Very similar to the now lost 2 Rutger Park, a design of Alexander Davis which his friend A .J. Downing published as "A Villa in the Italianate style, bracketed" in his 1842 "Cottage Residences". The design proved one of the most influential in mid-19th century American architecture. The Utica example of 1850 was one of the earliest built."