



Utica's Old Main Building has been on the National Registry for Historic Places since October 26, 1971.

Now part of the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center's campus, the Old Main building was opened for the care of the mentally ill on January 16, 1843. Known as the New York State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, the name was changed to Utica State Hospital in 1890.



About the Office of Mental Health

New York State has a large, multi-faceted mental health system that serves more than 700,000 individuals each year.

The Office of Mental Health (OMH) operates psychiatric centers across the State, and also regulates, certifies and oversees more than 4,500 programs, which are operated by local governments and nonprofit agencies.

These programs include various inpatient and out-patient programs, emergency, community support, residential and family care programs.

Tour Information

Advance reservations are required.
Tours are limited to 35 individuals.

To register for a tour please e-mail OldMainTours@omh.ny.gov with the following information at least one week prior to your visit:

- Name(s)
- Requested date and time of tour
- Organization or school affiliation (if any)
- Special arrangements for wheelchair access (if necessary)

You will be notified by reply email confirming your reservation request.

Times

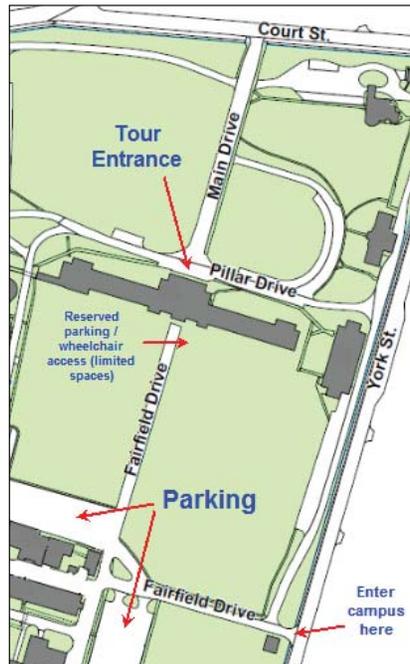
9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30 am
Please arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled tour.

Admission

Tours are free of charge

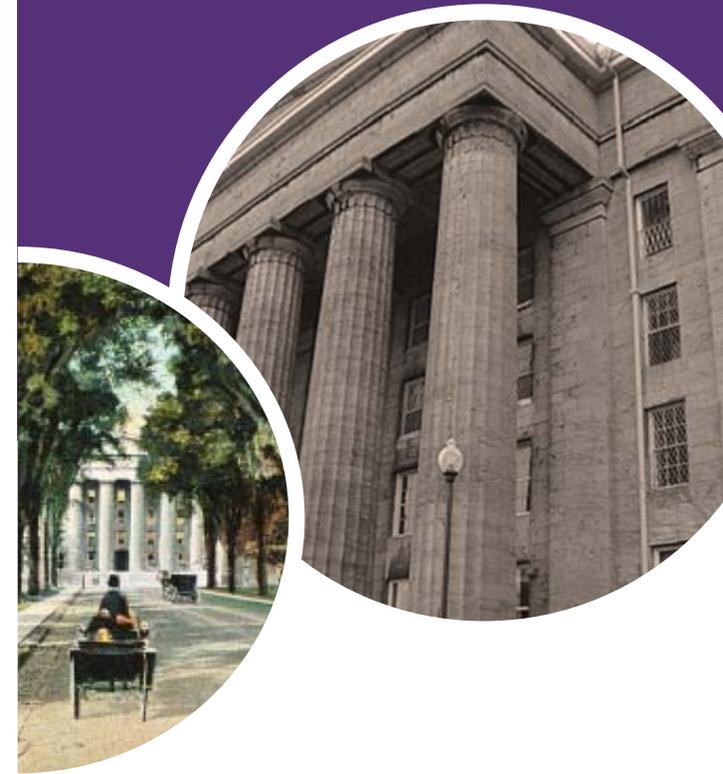
Parking

Free parking is available at the following locations:



OLD MAIN 2015 Tours

Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center
1213 Court Street, Utica, NY

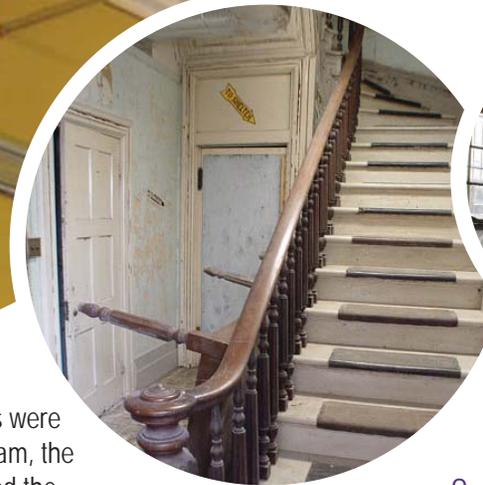


Fridays | May 1, 15, 29 | June 5, 19
SEE INSIDE FOR TIMES AND INFORMATION

OLD MAIN History

Built in 1843, the New York State Lunatic Asylum, later became the Utica State Hospital, Utica Psychiatric Center and finally Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center. It is locally known as "Old Main" and was the first publicly-funded institution to care for and help treat the mentally ill in New York State.

Designed by William Clarke, it was one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in its day. Set on 130 acres, the original design was to form a quadrangle, four identical buildings positioned at right angles to each other, surrounding a courtyard. Due to financial constraints after the foundations were laid, only one of the four structures was initially built.



What You Will See

Access is limited to the first floor with certain areas restricted due to patient record storage.

The focus of the tour is on the history of the Utica State Hospital and the modern day mental health recovery movement.

Although incomplete at the time, first patients were admitted in January 1843. Dr. Amariah Brigham, the asylum's first facility superintendent, published the *American Journal of Insanity* (later renamed *The American Journal of Psychiatry*) at the Utica Asylum in 1844. The journal, the first of its kind published in the English language, grew Utica's reputation worldwide as a center of Psychiatry.

Within two years of opening, the asylum was operating at capacity and wings were added on either end of the main building, which were ready for occupancy in 1846.

Our Entrance

Visitors must enter through the main entrance off Court Street. Special arrangements must be made in advance for wheelchair access to the building.

