



The Historic Courthouse District in Orleans County features one of the country's most remarkable collections of 19th-century architecture and stands as a notable small-town public space, showcasing diverse architectural styles and a community's ambition as it prospered from the Erie Canal.

Centered around the iconic domed courthouse, the square features seven churches alongside stately residences representing a variety of architectural styles.



Rose window in the First Presbyterian Church



NYS historic marker highlights the world's first Free Methodist Church



St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church



The front cover features the Tiffany stained-glass window Christ the Consoler at Pullman Memorial Universalist Church and showcases historic pipe organs found throughout the square, including the 1873 Steere & Turner organ at Christ Episcopal Church.

THE HEART OF THE SQUARE



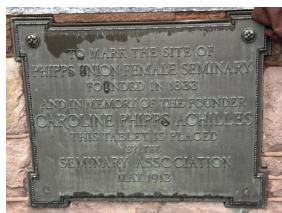
1) The Orleans County Court House was designed by Wm. V. N. Barlow and built in 1857-58 for \$20,000. It is a late example of the Greek Revival Style and serves as the central focal point of this historic district. Its large dome surmounted with a cupola serves as a landmark for miles around.



14) The Orleans County Clerk's Office was designed by Isaac G. Perry and built in 1882-83 in the Eastlake Style. He was the same architect who designed the "Million Dollar Staircase" in the State Capital in Albany. The extraordinary facade is enhanced with intricate brickwork and many detailed windows.



© Peggy Barringer



Dedicated in 1913, the marker honors Caroline Phipps Achilles, a pioneer in women's education who founded one of the nation's earliest female seminaries in 1837. Her school drew young women from across the country before closing after devastating



Head to the Clerk's Building to see the county's oldest historic marker, mounted on the site where the Phipps Union Seminary once stood.



9) This mural in the Albion Post Office, painted as a WPA project by Judson Smith in 1939, portrays a generalized Erie Canal village with a farm, lift bridge, stores and factory.



Albion itself arose in 1821 when a farm on the Oak Orchard Road at the projected Erie Canal was subdivided into a village to gain access to this new transportation route, which made the new village a trading, manufacturing and political center. Later, a railroad, trolley and highways, reinforced Albion's central position in the county. Quarrying of red Medina sandstone paving blocks encouraged

the immigration of British, Polish and Italian quarry workers. However, farming remained the main industry. Food processing became important after 1900.



GROUP TOURS

To book a group tour of the Courthouse Square please email the Orleans County Historical Association at ochistoryassociation@gmail.com

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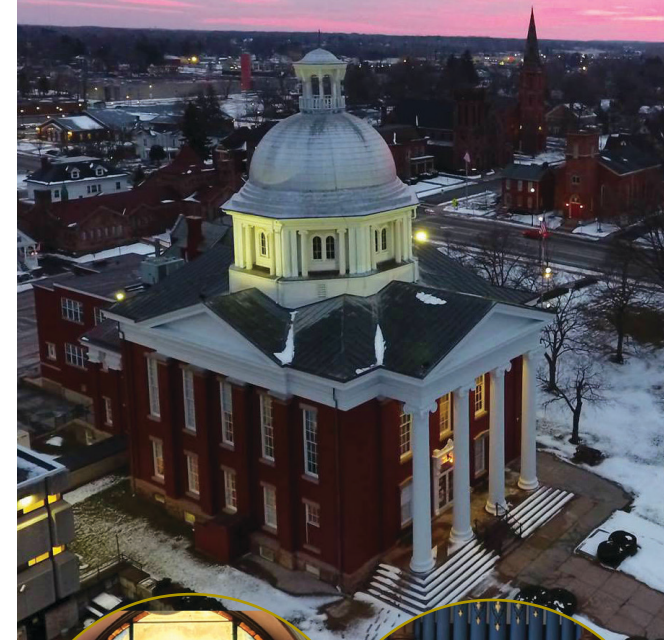
In collaboration with the Orleans County Department of History & Village of Albion Historian Sue Starkweather Miller

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The Historic Courthouse Square



ALBION, NY



Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

SEVEN ARCHITECTURALLY OUTSTANDING CHURCHES SURROUND THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE



2) The **First Free Methodist Church** was erected in 1860 when the local Methodist minister, an Abolitionist, split his congregation over this issue. The Free Methodists considered themselves free from the Methodist Episcopal Church. The church is an example of Norman Revival style with board and batten siding.



11) The **First Baptist Church** designed by Harlo Wilcox in the Victorian Romanesque Style was dedicated in 1860. Its most unusual feature is a hexagonal tower and spire 160 feet high which abuts the building. It still has its original clock mechanism with three dials on the tower. Underneath, a community crypt or holding vault was built which is no longer used.



5) **Canalside Community Church**, formerly the United Methodist Church, was constructed of brick in 1860, remodeled in 1877, and remodeled extensively in 1914, allowing for its present appearance. The notable feature of their edifice is the large 1914 window of the Good Shepherd in the Tiffany style.



12) **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church** was erected in 1896 of locally quarried Medina Sandstone in the Gothic Revival Style. A disgruntled Baptist sold his property to the Catholics with the stipulation that they build their church close to the street so it would block the view of the neighboring Baptist Church from Main Street. The interior of the R.C. Church, which was refurbished in 1952 with Italian marble, is richly illuminated with all its original stained glass windows.



7) The **First Presbyterian Church** was built of Medina Sandstone in 1874, largely through a bequest of Elizur Hart. It is Orleans County's tallest building with a stone spire 175 feet high. Legend says that Mr. Hart wanted this steeple to be higher than the Baptist one two blocks away. The church was designed by A. J. Warner of Rochester in the Gothic Revival Style, which emulates the great cathedrals of Europe. The Greek Revival building attached to the rear served as the sanctuary from 1845 until 1874.



10) **Christ Episcopal Church** was built in 1830 by Presbyterians. In 1844, Episcopalians swapped their vacant lot and building materials with the Presbyterians for their edifice. Built of brick, it is the oldest church building in Orleans County still being used for religious services. It contains an outstanding Steer and Turner tracker action pipe organ built in 1877.



13) Pullman Memorial Universalist Church was built in 1894 by the manufacturer of railway sleeping cars, George M. Pullman (1831-1897), in memory of his parents. It was designed in "Old English Gothic" by S. S. Beman, constructed of Medina Sandstone, and contains many windows created by the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company. Pullman grew up in Albion, where he built furniture and coffins before moving to Chicago, IL, where he became a millionaire.



SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW BUILDING INTERIORS

NOTABLE RESIDENCES



3) This **Second Empire Residence** was designed by Wm. V. N. Barlow, a local architect, and built in 1879. It manifests an elaborate Mansard roof, and the fanciful hexagonal tower is striking.



4) This **Greek Revival Home** was once the residence of Sanford E. Church, Lt. Governor of New York and a candidate for the presidency in 1868.

The Greek Revival home with Doric columns of particular interest on the porch is surrounded by a noteworthy cast iron fence.



6) This **Queen Anne Residence** was built in 1893 as a Manse for the Presbyterian Church. It displays many of the typical architectural features associated with the style.

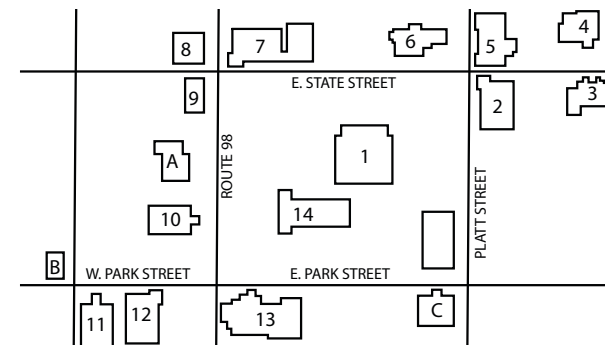
OTHER STRUCTURES



8) Built in the 1840s as a Greek Revival residence, the former **Swan Library** was later transformed in 1899 into a Colonial Revival-style public library. It officially opened on St. Patrick's Day in 1900 and served the community for over a century before closing in 2012, when the library relocated to the newly built Hoag Library. Today, the historic building has been repurposed and now operates as a business office.



A. This building has housed the Cornell Cooperative Extension offices and is currently **Marti's on Main**, a public art gallery.



Some Other Structures (Not Pictured)

B. This dwelling was built in the 1840's and the family home of Rufus Bullock who became Governor of Georgia during the Reconstruction Period.

C. Central Hall, which has served as the county offices, was built in 1882 for a district school