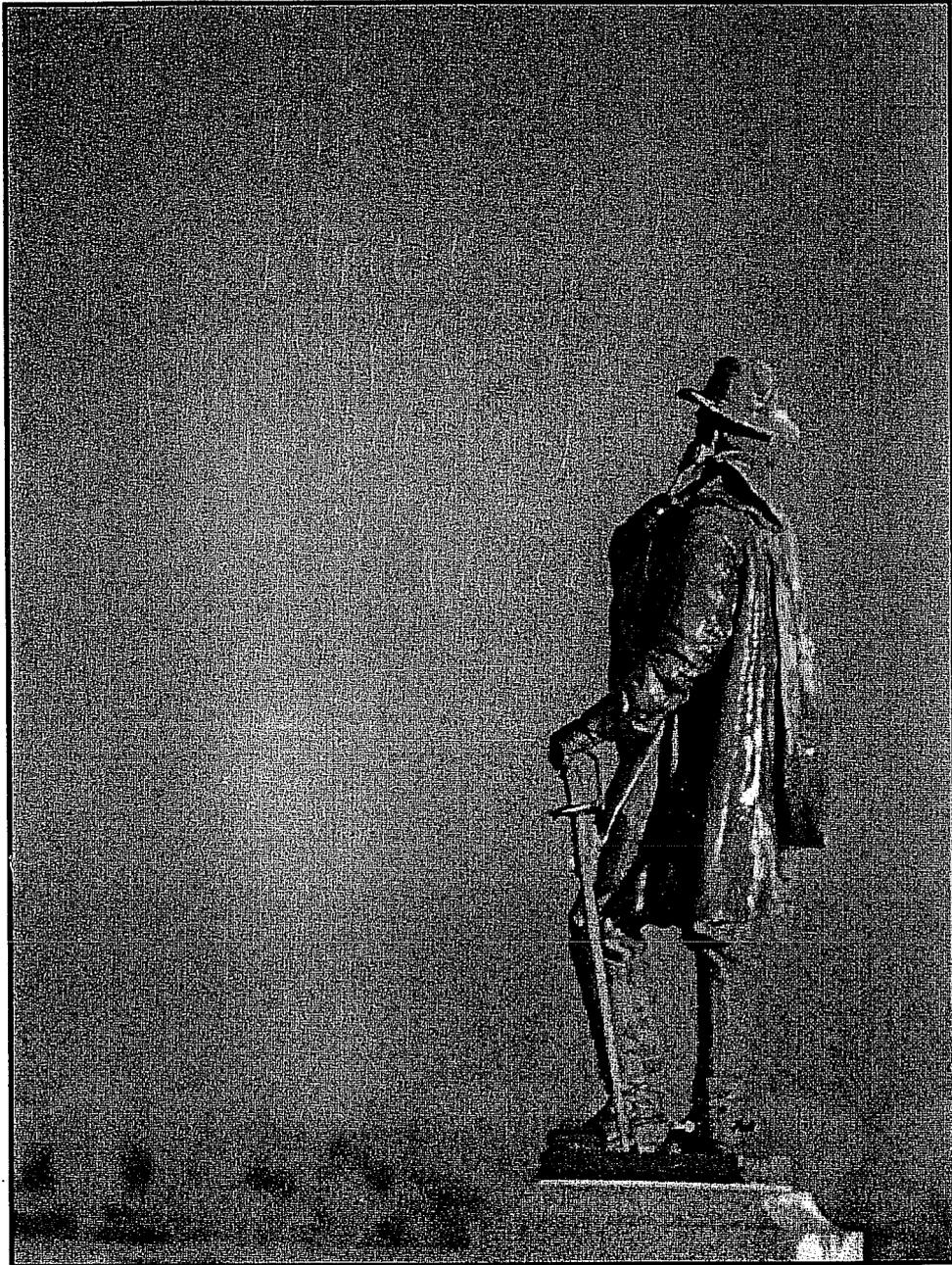


# HISTORIC OGDENSBURG



Cover Photo: General Newton Martin Curtis Monument  
Veteran's Day, November 11, 1995  
see page 44 for text

*This brochure is a revision with additions to the four previous Historic Ogdensburg brochures, 1968-1987, by former Ogdensburg Historian, Elizabeth Baxter, updated by Persis Yates Boyesen, Ogdensburg City Historian*

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## Abbe Francois Picquet

Francois Picquet was born December 4, 1708 at Bourg-en-Bresse, France, son of Andre and Marie-Philippe (Berthet) Picquet. He was ordained priest April 10, 1734 at the Seminaire de Saint Sulpice in Paris. That summer he arrived in Montreal where he served the parish ministry and learned Indian languages and customs until 1739. For the next ten years he lived at the Sulpician mission at Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes (Oka, Quebec).

He was determined to win for France all the Indians living to the south of the Great Lakes. He was called the "apostle to the Iroquois". In October 1748 he left Quebec with two objectives; first, to search for a suitable place for a village for Indians willing to embrace Christianity and secondly to build a fort that would serve as headquarters to spy on the activities at Oswego, a trading center for the lake region.

On November 21, 1748, he selected the site on the little peninsula at the confluence of the Oswegatchie and the St. Lawrence Rivers. The day was the feast of the Blessed Virgin in the Temple, thus he named his mission and fort "La Presentation". He returned May 30, 1749 to build the mission. The first mass at the site and the first in northern New York was celebrated by Abbe Picquet on June 1, 1749.

The fiery militant priest took part in the expeditions against Oswego and Carillon (Ticonderoga). The English placed a "price" on his head. In 1759 the inadequate fortifications at La Presentation against the English influenced him to move his mission to Grande Ile-aux-Galops. In the summer of 1760 the mission was abandoned in face of the probable British advance. Abbe Picquet escaped and returned to France by way of New Orleans. He died July 15, 1781 at Verjon, France.

## Early Ogdensburg History

In 1749, Abbe Francois Picquet, Sulpician Missionary, founded the first white settlement where now stands the City of Ogdensburg. His purpose was to teach and convert the Indians and protect the land for his native France. The site he chose for his mission and fort, guarded by French soldiers, was at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Oswegatchie Rivers. Fort La Presentation was a combined church, school, trading post, Indian village and citadel.

On July 26, 1756, the expedition of General Montcalm on the way to capture Oswego from the English camped overnight at La Presentation. Ogdensburg's French period came to an end in 1760. The French destroyed Fort La Presentation as defense against the advancing English. Sir Jeffrey Amherst's troops took possession of the ruined Fort La Presentation August 17, 1760.

Downstream in the St Lawrence River on Ile Royal (Chimney Island), Fort de Levis (1759-1760) named for Francois Gaston, Duc de Levis, Commander-in-chief of the French forces in Canada was constructed by Captain Pierre Pouchot, French engineer and soldier, whose troops had rebuilt Fort Niagara (1755-57) and was commander when the British captured Niagara in 1759. Fort Levis was the site of the last major battle between the French and English in the French and Indian War. Pouchot surrendered to Amherst August 26, 1760.

## La Presentation Cornerstone

The oldest authentic artifact of the French period is the La Presentation cornerstone which is embedded in the wall of the main front corridor of the Ogdensburg City Hall. The Latin inscription translates: In the name of Almighty God, Francois Picquet laid the foundation of this habitation in 1749.

In 1831 the foundation stone was discovered at the base of one of the stone buildings of the Fort La Presentation ruins when excavations were being done for a foundation on which to lay the keel of the Steamer

United States. The stone was given to Louis Hasbrouck, one of the early settlers (1802) and first St. Lawrence County Clerk.

In 1858 when the State Arsenal (100 Lafayette St.) was constructed the stone was placed over the south door. Upon completion of the Opera House and Oswegatchie Town Hall in 1881 the stone was removed from the Arsenal and placed in the new building. The historic stone was rescued from the Opera House and Oswegatchie Town Hall destroyed by fire in 1926 and placed in the present Ogdensburg City Hall completed in 1930.

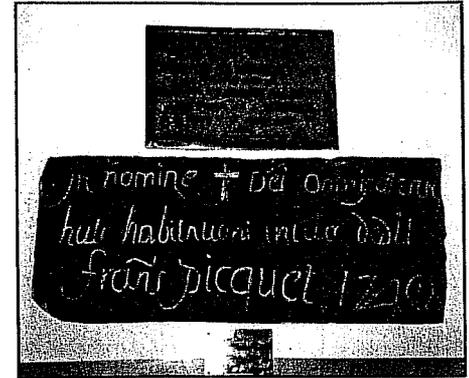


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## Chimney Island

Chimney Island in the St. Lawrence River, a half mile southeast of the Ogdensburg Seaway-Skyway International Bridge was the site of Fort de Levis where the last major battle between the French and the English in the French and Indian Wars occurred.

The island originally named Ile Royal was later called Chimney Island for the ruins of Fort de Levis. The seven acre island at that time was only two feet above water. After the surrender of the French fort to the English the fort was renamed Fort William Augustus.

Mary B. Sherman and John C. Howard gave the island to the City of Ogdensburg June 29, 1923. Rev. D. Charles White, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church told the common council that the gift was intended "to be held by the city forever and be set apart as a bird sanctuary and to be preserved for its associations with the history of our country".

Chimney Island was purchased from the City by New York State August 1, 1956 for \$350. In 1957 about half of the island was removed for the St. Lawrence Seaway development. In 1967 an effort was made to "restore what is left of the island to ownership of the City". The island is under the jurisdiction of the New York Power Authority.

## Early Ogdensburg History

On June 13, 1760 in anticipation of the coming English advance Capt. Pouchet, commander at Fort de Levis sent a detachment to La Presentation which had been abandoned since winter to bring back planks and iron work for the use of Fort Levis and to dismantle and ruin the mission so that no shelter be provided for the enemy. The end of the French occupation came on August 25, 1760.

Fort de Levis was renamed Fort William Augustus for the younger son of Hanoverian King George II. William Augustus was the Duke of Cumberland, a field marshal and commander-in-chief of the British forces.

The English repaired Fort La Presentation and renamed it Fort Oswegatchie. The period 1760-1775 was very quiet. Fort Oswegatchie and Fort William Augustus were used as supply depots for the western posts. In some instances trade passes were issued at Oswegatchie for those going to Niagara. By 1766 Fort William Augustus was all but abandoned as only a corporal and two men from Fort Oswegatchie guarded the storehouse there. Fort Oswegatchie became the storehouse for provisions for the upper posts.

In 1775 and 1777 the works at Fort Oswegatchie were repaired and rebuilt. Fort Oswegatchie played a small but very important part in the American Revolutionary War. A detachment from the 8th Regiment under command of Captain Forster marched to the Cedars, a post held by the American Major Butterfield. A severe battle followed, Butterfield surrendered and Forster marched towards Montreal where after much fierce fighting and the overwhelming size of Arnold's forces he decided to return to Oswegatchie. In 1779 under Col. VanSchaick's orders, Lieutenants McClennan and Hardenbergh of the 1st N.Y. Regt. with a company of men were sent on a scouting expedition to Fort Oswegatchie. The Americans surprised the Fort, killed two British and took four British prisoners. Captain Daniel Robertson of the 84th Regiment, commander at Fort Oswegatchie led the successful attack on Ellice's mill on the Mohawk River. This destruction is mentioned in the novel, DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK, Fort Oswegatchie was also the rendezvous of scalping parties of Tories and Indians on their forays to the Mohawk River.

The 1783 Treaty of Paris did not solve the problem of the unwillingness of the British to surrender the forts and trading posts on American soil. It was not until the Jay Treaty that Great Britain agreed to evacuate all posts on American territory. Adjutant General George Beckwith at Quebec in a letter dated June 6, 1796 ordered Richard Dodgson to evacuate the post of Oswegatchie.

## AMERICAN PERIOD 1796 - 1817

The first settlers under the American flag arrived here August 11, 1796. They were all natives of or the environs of Morristown, New Jersey. The names of those who accompanied Nathan Ford to the new American frontier were Thomas Lee, (for whom the Lee Road in the town of Oswegatchie is named), Richard Fitz Randolph and John Lyon, a Revolutionary war veteran, and his family. The name Lyon was to have been perpetuated in Ogdensburg history by the naming of Lyon Park located at the once existent corner of Crescent and Greene streets, which area was absorbed in the 1960's with the widening of the streets and the construction of parking spaces.

The early development of Ogdensburg was on the west side of the Oswegatchie. This area in many early documents was referred to as "Ford's Mills" or "Fordville". The gristmill, saw mill, distillery, tannery, stores, first school and all early pioneer industries were located here. The east side was known as Ogdensburg.

The birthplace of St. Lawrence County and the town of Oswegatchie was in the old stone garrison buildings.

Washington Irving visited Ogdensburg in the summer of 1803. His first impression of the new settlement from the east side of the Oswegatchie was of "a long point of land on which stood a few houses called the 'Garrison', tumbling in ruins, excepting three which were kept in tolerable order by Judge Ford who resided in one of them and used the others as stores and out-houses."

By 1804 the east side of the Oswegatchie had been surveyed and the streets named much as they are today with few exceptions. There were five families living in the future village of Ogdensburgh. They were Stephen Slosson, Dr. Powel Davis, George Davis who kept an inn, John Chapin and Louis Hasbrouck, the first St. Lawrence County clerk, who moved into his new house the summer of 1804.

The total population of Oswegatchie, in the 1800 census was 138. In 1810 the population was 1245 and in 1820 numbered 16,610. The town at that time encompassed a much greater territory than today.

The Embargo Act of 1807 applied to the lake ports as well as to sea ports. Farmers and others were dependent on Montreal for supplies and source of cash money from the sale of potash and lumber. That Act and the resultant War of 1812 slowed development.

In the fall of 1812, Capt. Benjamin Forsyth and his company of riflemen were housed in one of the buildings of the old garrison, formerly Fort Oswegatchie. On the morning of February 22, 1813 the British captured Ogdensburg in a surprise attack, precipitated by a great deal of previous harassment to the British by Forsyth.

Ogdensburg on April 5, 1817 became the first incorporated village in St. Lawrence County. The letter "h" added to its name and dropped when it became a city.

The area long known as the second ward was not in the village of Ogdensburgh until April 29, 1839.

## Samuel Ogden

The name most prominent in the founding history of this area, after that of Francois Picquet, is that of OGDEN. The progenitor of the Ogdens that are connected to the north country was David Ogden of New Jersey. He married Gertrude Gouverneur. Four of their eleven children, Isaac, Sarah, Abraham and Samuel are well known in the early history of St. Lawrence County.

Isaac Ogden adhered to the Loyalist cause and moved to Montreal. It was he that Nathan Ford contacted for supplies, laborers and for the sale of goods from the newly established settlement at Oswegatchie later to become the City of Ogdensburg.

Sarah Ogden married Nicholas Hoffman. The Hoffman name is perpetuated in the Ogden-Hoffman land tract in St. Lawrence County.

Abraham Ogden is the reason for the Ogdens owning large tracts of land in the north country. He was appointed by George Washington as commissioner to obtain title to the lands in northern New York from the Iroquois Indians. This gave him the knowledge of the country which resulted in purchases of lands for himself; his brother, Samuel; his first cousin, Gouverneur Morris and Nicholas Hoffman, his brother-in-law.

Samuel Ogden, an ardent patriot during the Revolutionary War, attained the rank of Colonel in the New Jersey Militia. He married Euphemia Morris, daughter of Lewis Morris and Sarah Gouverneur. Euphemia's brother was Gouverneur Morris, a signer of the United States Constitution. Her half-brother, Lewis, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The history of Ogden land titles is very lengthy. Briefly in 1792, Samuel Ogden had acquired all of Oswegatchie, a part of DeKalb and Cambry (Gouverneur). At that time the British were in possession of Fort Oswegatchie. The Ogden lands could not be opened for settlement until the provisions of Jay's Treaty of 1794 were carried out in June 1796.

In honor of the land proprietor the hamlet which later became a village and later a city was named Ogdensburg, although while a village it was spelled Ogdensburgh.

The streets of Ogdensburg were named for Samuel Ogden's wife, Euphemia (now State) and daughters, Gertrude (now Franklin), Catherine, Isabella and Caroline.

A son of Samuel Ogden, Lewis Morris Ogden died November 20, 1810 in Ogdensburg and is buried in the Ford Vault.

## Nathan Ford

Nathan Ford, the real founder of Ogdensburg, was born December 8, 1763 in Morristown, New Jersey. He spent his childhood years with his grandfather, Jacob Ford, whose stately mansion became George Washington's headquarters in the winter of 1779-80 and is now a National Historic Site. In 1779-1780 he served as Assistant Deputy Quartermaster for the Revolutionary War troops in Morristown, New Jersey.

He early gained the confidence of Samuel Ogden, a speculator in northern New York lands. In 1794-95 he came north to explore the territory and to make plans for possession of the land by the proprietor in 1796 according to the terms of Jay's Treaty.

The first settlers under the American flag arrived here August 11, 1796. They were all natives of the environs of Morristown, New Jersey. From 1796 until the day of his death March 29, 1829 Nathan Ford was a prominent person in organizing and promoting Oswegatchie Township and the County of St. Lawrence. The first Oswegatchie town meeting was held in 1802 at the house of Nathan Ford who then resided in one of the buildings formerly part of Fort Oswegatchie previously known during the French period as Fort La Presentation.

He was very active in promoting and organizing civic, church and political affairs of the new settlement. He was appointed by the Council of Appointment under the first New York State Constitution as a First Judge of the Courts of Common Pleas, a position he held from 1802 to 1820.

His direction enabled the community to expand from an outpost to a village which was incorporated April 5, 1817 and to a city chartered April 27, 1868, the 17th in age of the 62 cities of New York State.

Nathan Ford died March 29, 1829 and is buried in the Ford Vault. He never married. Two streets in Ogdensburg perpetuate the Ford name, Ford Street and Ford Avenue.

## David Parish

David Parish, a prominent financier from Hamburg, Germany purchased in 1808 the unsold portions of the Village of Ogdensburg.

The first two large construction enterprises in the village were the building of a residence for David Parish, now known as the Frederic Remington Art Museum and the Parish Store now known as the Robert C. McEwen United States Custom House. Both structures are listed on the National Historic Register.

## VILLAGE PERIOD 1817 - 1868

In 1817 the "Ontario", the first steam boat built on the Great Lakes, made her first trip to the port of Ogdensburgh. Her arrival signaled the beginning of a new era in transportation. She carried passengers and cargo, such as potash and flour.

\* Ogdensburgh became the first incorporated village in St. Lawrence County on April 5, 1817. From this date until its incorporation as a city, Ogdensburgh was spelled "Ogdensburgh". The first village officers were Louis Hasbrouck, president; Joseph W. Smith, Charles Hill and John Scott, trustees; and Silvester Gilbert, village clerk.

Among the first village ordinances passed were those determining the weight and price of a loaf of bread and the abolition of swine, horses or horned cattle running at large.

Ogdensburgh has maintained cordial relations with its northern neighbor, Canada, since the Patriot War of 1837-1840. The battle of the Windmill was fought Nov. 12-16, 1838 at Windmill Point across the St. Lawrence from Ogdensburgh.

The Village in 1850 became the western terminus of the Northern Railroad. The first train arrived at Ogdensburgh on September 26, 1850. The opening of the railway drew trade from the upper lakes to New England. In the summer of 1850 Ogdensburgh was connected by telegraph with Watertown and with Boston in 1851. By 1853, Crawford and Co. had established a line of ten propellers to run on the lakes in connection with the Northern Railroad for forwarding freight. Most of these vessels also carried passengers. The construction of the submarine railway for taking vessels and steamers out of the river for repairs contributed to the development and economy of the Village.

By 1860, Ogdensburgh was known as the "the New York of the North".

Fort Sumter was fired on April 12, 1861. On April 24, 1861, Co. A, 16th Regiment, New York Volunteers left Ogdensburgh for Albany, via the Ogdensburgh and Lake Champlain Railroad for Rouses Point, then by steamer to Whitehall and thence by rail to Albany. This Company is said to have been the first in New York State to answer the call of President Lincoln for volunteers.

\* The growth of Ogdensburgh was quite rapid from the date of the completion of the railway until its incorporation as a city on April 27, 1868, and the letter "h" dropped from its name. From the time of its incorporation as a city until February 9, 1927 the City of Ogdensburgh remained a part of the town of Oswegatchie.

## Presidents Village of Ogdensburgh 1817-1867

Louis Hasbrouck .....	1817-1818
Palmer Cleveland .....	1819
James Averell, 3rd .....	1820
Wolcott Hubbell .....	1821
Bernsley Huntoon .....	1822
Louis Hasbrouck .....	1823-1824
Joseph Rosseel .....	1825
George Guest .....	1826
Anthony C. Brown .....	1827
Charles Hill .....	1828-1831
James G. Hopkins .....	1832-1834
Silvester Gilbert .....	1835-1836
Erastus Vilas .....	1837
Charles Hill .....	1838
Amos Bacon .....	1839
George W. Shepard .....	1840
David Crichton .....	1841-1842
Amos Bacon .....	1843
James G. Hopkins .....	1844
Amaziah B. James .....	1845-1846
Cornelius Stillman .....	1847
Egbert N. Fairchild .....	1848
Stillman Foote .....	1849
William Bacon .....	1850
William Jones .....	(served 4 months) 1851
Egbert N. Fairchild .....	1851
William C. Brown .....	1851-1852
John F. Rosseel .....	1853-1854
Thomas Bacon .....	1855
Silvester Gilbert .....	1856-1857
Seth G. Pope .....	1858-1859
Alric M. Herriman .....	1860-1861
David C. Judson .....	1862-1863
Charles G. Myers .....	1864
Calvin W. Gibbs .....	1865
Dewitt C. Brown .....	1866-1867

## Mayors City of Ogdensburg 1868-1995

William C. Brown .....	1868-1869
Zina B. Bridges .....	1870
William L. Proctor .....	1871-1874
John F. Rosseel .....	1875
James Armstrong.....	1876-1877
George A. Eddy .....	1878
James W. Parker .....	1879-1880
Edward J. Chapin .....	1881-1882
William J. Averell .....	1883
Charles Lyon .....	1885
George Hall .....	1887-1888
Edgar A. Newell .....	1889-1890
John Hannan .....	1891
Charles W. McClair .....	1892
Edgar A. Newell .....	1893-1894
Dennis B. Lucey .....	1895-1896, 1897
Edgar A. Newell .....	1898-1899
George Hall .....	1900-1905
John Hannan .....	1906-1907
George Hall .....	1908
Edward D. Douglas .....	1909-1910
George E. Van Kennen .....	1911-1912
Charles D. Hoard .....	1913-1914
Julius Frank .....	1915-1918
James E. Kelly .....	1919-1920
Edward P. Lynch .....	1921-1925
William Westbrook .....	1926-1927
W. Allan Newell .....	1928-1929
John A. Wert .....	1930-1931
Ralph J. Morissette .....	1932-1935
Fred Elie .....	1936-1937
John J. Livingston .....	1938-1939
Francis B. Burns .....	1940-1945
Homer M. Wallace .....	1946-1947
Max J. Miller.....	1948-1949
Ralph J. Morissette .....	1950-1951

Robert P. McDonald .....	1952-1955
Lee W. Keyes .....	1956-1959
Francis B. Burns .....	1960-1961
Edward J. Keenan .....	1962-1966
Frederick G. McFadden .....	1967
John F. Byrnes .....	1968-1975
Joseph P. Denny .....	1976-1979
Richard G. Lockwood .....	1980-present

Under an 1893 amendment to the city charter, the mayor's term of office was changed from one year to two years. Under the present city charter, the term is four years.

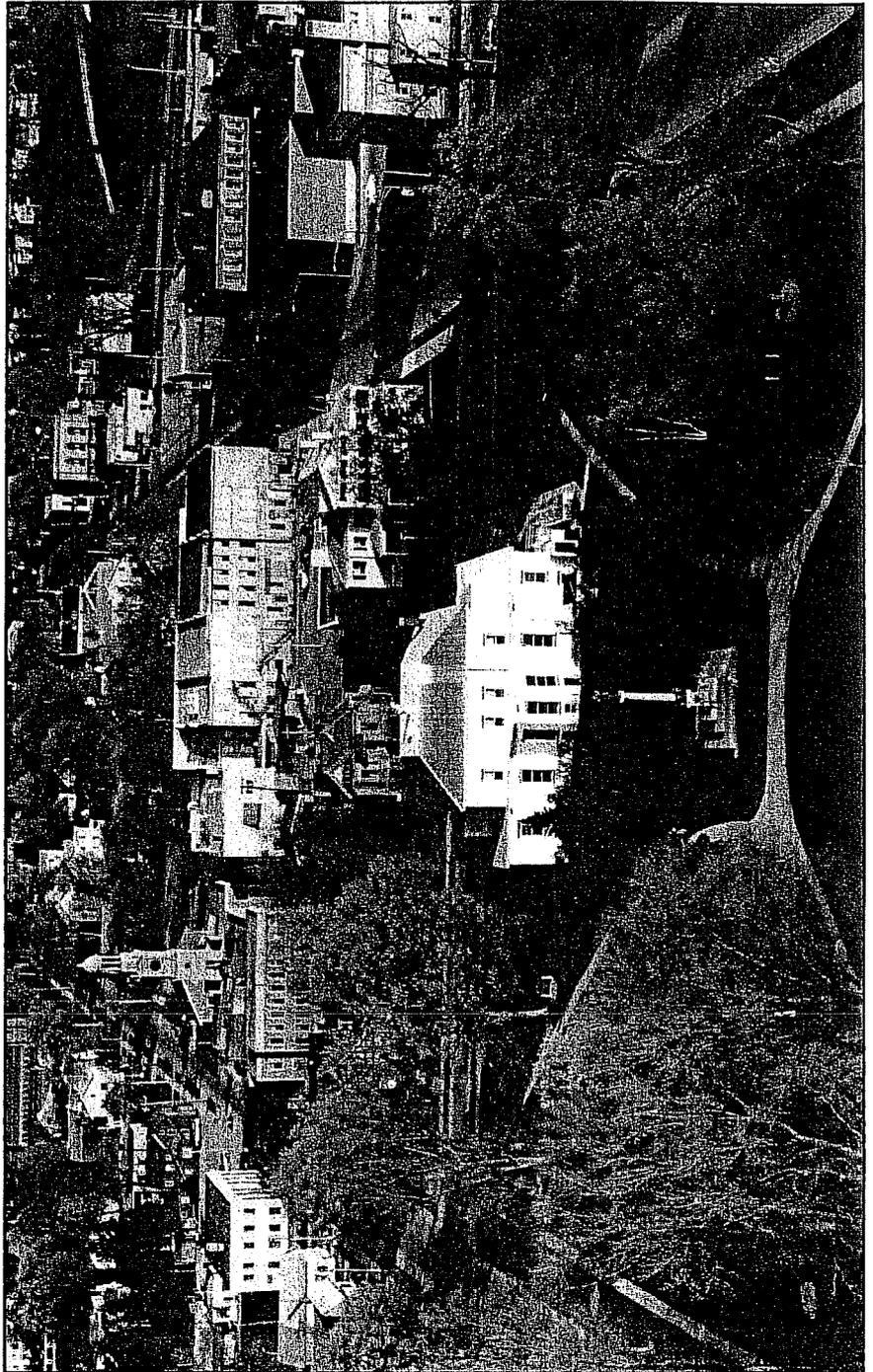
## City Managers

Ogdensburg adopted city manager government January 1, 1970.

Francis J. Culross Jr. ....	January 19, 1970-October 30, 1978
Gerald F. Johnson .....	October 30, 1978-February 4, 1983
Daniel W. Fitzpatrick .....	April 25, 1983-February 6, 1987
John C. Kroh ...	<i>March 23, 1987 - September 30, 2005</i>
Arthur J. Sciorra.....	<i>February 1, 2006 - present</i>

## City Clerks

Nathaniel H. Lytle .....	1868-1877
Joseph Roy .....	1877-1878
Nathaniel H. Lytle .....	1878-1880
James M. McGuire .....	1880-1881
Nathaniel H. Lytle .....	1881-1886
James M. Wells .....	1886-1889
George Van Kennen .....	1889-1890
R. H. Hardy.....	1890-1892
George Dessert .....	1892-1893
H. L. Jones .....	1893-1899
T. J. Houston .....	June 1899-Oct. 1899
D. J. Crichton Jr. ....	1899-1929
W. Hobert Owen .....	1930-1936
E. J. W. Crawford .....	1937-1945
Simon S. Sargent .....	1945-1972
Leona E. Bouchard .....	1972-1975
Mary K. Fredericks .....	1975-1988
Rebecca J. Claxton .....	1988-2002
Kathleen A. Bouchard.....	<i>February 27, 2002-present</i>



Aerial photo by Steele Photography  
Library Park, Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Library, Remington Art Memorial,  
City Hall, and 300 Block of Ford Street.

## Ogdensburg 1868-1995

Fifty-one years after Ogdensburgh attained village status, Ogdensburg, no longer spelled with an "h", on April 27, 1868, became the only city in St. Lawrence County. It is the only United States city on the St. Lawrence Seaway. In 1959, the Seaway was completed. Shipping has contributed to the development and growth of Ogdensburg since its very earliest days.

Ogdensburg is a place where the old and new are intermingled from the oldest Federal building, the Robert C. McEwen United States Custom House, still in use to the Elsa Luksich swimming pool which opened in late 1994 in the Greenbelt. Its history dating back to 1749 has the distinction of being one of the few places in the United States to have been under the government of three flags.

The main floor walls and entrance to the city hall auditorium present a walk through of history with an exhibit of archaeological artifacts, photographs, maps, portraits and the corner stone of Fort La Presentation.

In early 1987 students from SUNY Potsdam Field Archaeology class conducted an archaeological dig in the purported area of the location of Fort La Presentation in an effort to locate the actual site of the fort. Artifacts found relating to the history of the French, English and American period are exhibited in a glass cabinet.

At the entrance to the auditorium the stained glass seal of Ogdensburg is dedicated to noted stained glass artist, Harry James Horwood. An 1842 map plan of the Ogdensburgh water power lots and a map of Fordsville (now the second ward) done in August 1850 by Robert Tate for the heirs of Nathan Ford are in this area.

Ladouceur memorabilia and portraits are exhibited in a case in an adjoining hallway. The nine Ladouceur brothers, a complete baseball team with their father as manager won many championships.

On February 16, 1872, Pope Pius IX designated the City as the See of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The first telephone customer in Ogdensburg was H.I. Proctor founder of the Proctor Lumber Company. He had telephones installed in his residence and two offices in July 1881.

The Huff-Daland Airplane Co., founded in the early 1920's in Ogdensburg, manufactured airplanes for the U.S. government and became well known for their crop duster planes. The company left the area in 1925 and from its small start in Ogdensburg evolved into Delta Air Lines.

The first railroad train arrived in Ogdensburg September 26, 1850. Passenger train service ended nearly 111 years later May 21, 1961. Pullman service ceased in 1960.

The first Seaway Festival was held in 1960.

Urban renewal in the 1970's demolished many historic buildings in downtown Ogdensburg.

The City manager government was adopted January 1, 1970.

# Commerce and Industries

Commercial and industrial concerns have contributed to Ogdensburg's history.

## Hackett Hardware

The oldest continued established business in Ogdensburg is HACKETT HARDWARE founded in 1830 by Silvester Gilbert. Patrick Hackett, for whom the company is named, in 1847 entered the employment of Mr. Gilbert and remained with the firm when it was sold to Cheney and Allen in 1850. Mr. Hackett continued employment with the business when E. B. Allen and Son became successors to the firm of Cheney and Allen. He later became an active member of the firm. In 1884, Mr. Hackett became the proprietor of the business now in its 111 years of operation.

## Fisher's Clothing

Fisher's Clothing Store was established in 1901 by Hyman S. Fisher, Abraham Friedman and Isaac Friedman. It was known as Friedman and Fisher until 1925 when H. S. Fisher purchased the Friedman brothers' interests. The firm was known as H.S. Fisher Co. until 1931 when Mr. Fisher retired and the business was purchased by his brother, Joseph Fisher and his nephew, Hyman B. Fisher. The firm became known as Joseph Fisher and Son. It retains the Fisher name 64 years later. It has been said that the H.S. Fisher store was founded in 1859 under a different ownership.

## Hulett and Son

The Hulett name has been known in the jewelry business in Ogdensburg since 1910. The firm became known as Hulett and Son in 1933. The business under different ownership is still known as Hulett's.

## Newell Home Hardware

In 1904, the Newell Manufacturing Co. was the successor of the W. H. Linton Co. In 1908, the name was changed to the Newell Manufacturing Co., Inc. The company located at 100 Patterson Street employed 114 persons in 1995.

A branch company was established in 1921 at Freeport, Illinois. In 1969, the company purchased the E. H. Tate Company (Bulldog) of Boston and began manufacturing picture hangers and accessories. The Newell Group purchased in 1995 the Shade Roller manufacturing company.

## Standard Shade Roller

The Standard Shade Roller Corporation in 1916 took over the local manufacturing firm, Flos Shade Roller Company, located on Covington Street. In 1987, Ogdensburg Shade Roller, a division of the Joanna Western Mills Co. was purchased by the Chicago based firm, C. H. F., Industries Inc. The company manufactures window shade rollers, vinyl window shades and blinds. The company was purchased by the Newell Group in 1995.

## Acco

ACCO, USA manufacturers of office supplies, has been in the Ogdensburg area since May 31, 1947 when the company signed the lease for the former Coplan Steel Corporation property.

The company is the largest industrial employer in Ogdensburg with 350 employees. ACCO's International Distribution Center is located in the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority Heavy Industrial Park.

## Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority

The Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, with its offices in the Bridge Plaza building, developed in 1975 Commerce Park with its first building constructed and opened in 1976. Commerce Park, the Heavy Industrial Park and the Bridge Plaza building is the largest employer in Ogdensburg with over 950 employees working at 25 different firms.

The Bridge and Port Authority operates Commerce Park, the Heavy Industrial Park, the Port of Ogdensburg, the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge, the Ogdensburg International Airport and the 31 mile St. Lawrence-Raquette River Railroad line from Ogdensburg to Norwood.

The parks are located on land once areas of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center. Some of the manufacturing companies located here are firms with origins in Canada with expanded operations in the United States.

The first firm in Commerce Park was Mitel in 1975. The company produces programmable call controllers or dialers for telephones.

Other manufacturing companies located here are:

American Computer Assemblies or CompAs producing electronic components.

Certelec Laboratories Inc, an international compliance and performance testing laboratory that tests electronics for manufacturers to learn if the products are of the safety and quality standards of countries all over the world.

Defelsko Corporation manufactures gauges to measure the thickness of layers of paint on steel structures, concrete, wood, fiber glass, cars and airplanes. Among its customers in the United States are McDonnell-Douglas, NASA and Martin Marietta and customers in Asia, Europe and the middle East.

Filtran builds filters, transformers, chokes and coils for electronic assemblies. The company contracts with companies to build components for Computer systems, signal lights, telephone systems, etc.

International Security Printers Inc. prints documents that are of the "secure type" and have monetary value. The firm contracts with the federal government for printing jobs, such as postage stamps, that are put out for bid.

Zontec Inc. produces electronic deodorizers that deodorizes noxious odors by electronically breaking down oxygen molecules to oxidize odors.

There is a business firm located in Ogdensburg that has been in Ogdensburg for nearly 100 years. The C. J. Tower Custom House brokerage and freight forwarding business was originally known as E. D. Dillingham Inc. Custom House Broker established in 1886 by Edward Dillingham. The firm was incorporated December 28, 1922. In the early 1980's the firm was purchased by C. J. Tower and sons from Buffalo now known as Tower Group International.

The firm is responsible for clearing merchandise through U.S. Customs, handling imports from foreign countries and exports from the United States.

In the early years the offices were in the New York Central freight office on Market Street in Ogdensburg and later years in the Bridge and Port Authority building until removal to Commerce Park.

## Ogdensburg's Downtown Battlefield

The rich historical heritage of Ogdensburg is summarized on plaques situated at various locations in the area termed Ogdensburg's Downtown Battlefield. The 1.3 mile self guided walk through history starts at the City Hall and relates incidents of the French period, the English period, War of 1812 and the 1838 Canadian Patriot War.



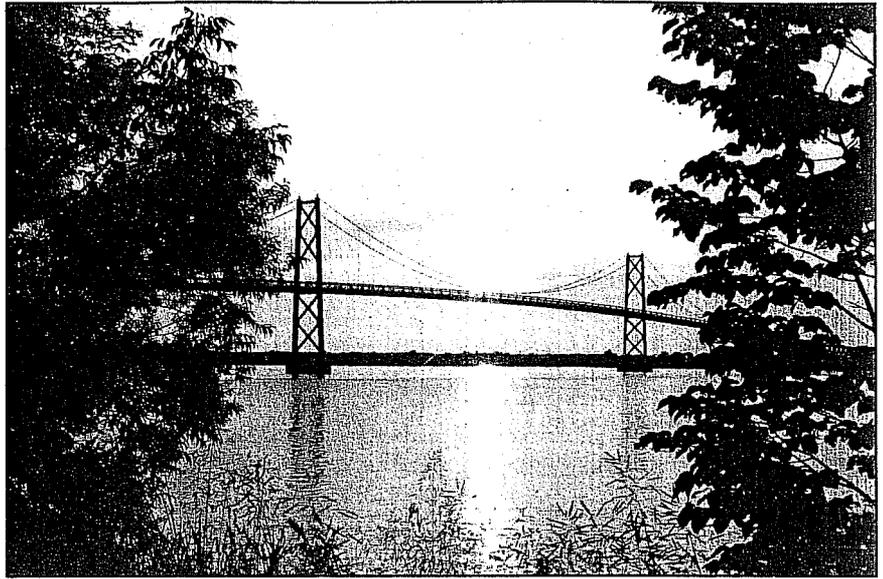


Photo by Steele Photography

## Ogdensburg International Bridge

In 1929, after a tour of the St. Lawrence River area, Gov. Roosevelt proposed the building of a bridge across the St. Lawrence River for the improvement of communication between New York State and Ontario. In 1930, he proposed that a commission be created to investigate that a bridge be constructed. Several sites were recommended, among them, the Chimney Point area at Ogdensburg.

It was not until the late 1950's that the Chimney Point site recommended in 1930 by Ralph Modjeska of the engineering firm of Modjeska and Masters became the location of the Ogdensburg International Bridge, named the "Seaway-Skyway Bridge" between Ogdensburg and Johnstown, Ontario. The bridge was constructed by Modjeska and Masters noted bridge builders.

The bridge was opened to traffic September 21, 1960. Ferry service between Ogdensburg and Prescott ceased the same day.

The \$20,000,000 bridge was dedicated September 27, 1960 by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. Mrs. John C. Tulloch, widow of the first chairman of the Ogdensburg Bridge Authority, cut the ribbon.

## HISTORIC BUILDINGS

### New York State Armory

The New York State Armory, a massive castellated style edifice, at 225 Elizabeth Street, was constructed in 1897-1898. The lower levels are constructed of Ogdensburg limestone taken from the Nevins' quarry on Riverside Drive. The upper levels are of Potsdam sandstone. The interior was finished in 1898. The front of the building facing Elizabeth Street has two large towers, one higher than the other. There are also two turrets. The towers and turrets are battlemented. The narrow windows shaped like castle windows give the building the appearance of an old fortified chateau.

The architect was Isaac Perry, the same New York State Architect, who drew the plans for the St. Lawrence State Hospital now known as the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center. The Armory is architecturally and historically significant as a remarkable intact, representative example of a late nineteenth century armory built to house a local unit of the New York State National guard.

The Armory was built for the Fortieth Separate Company which had an enrollment of 90 men under Captain Frank Chapman. Since its opening in 1898, military units, draftees and volunteers have assembled here before departing for service. The Fortieth Separate Company assembled April 27, 1898 to decide whether or not to volunteer for service in the Spanish-American War. Seventy out of a 100 volunteered their services for a term of two years. They returned April 6, 1899.

The Armory is not only historically significant for its association with American military history but also in particular the history of the National Guard.

In April 1995, the Armory was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

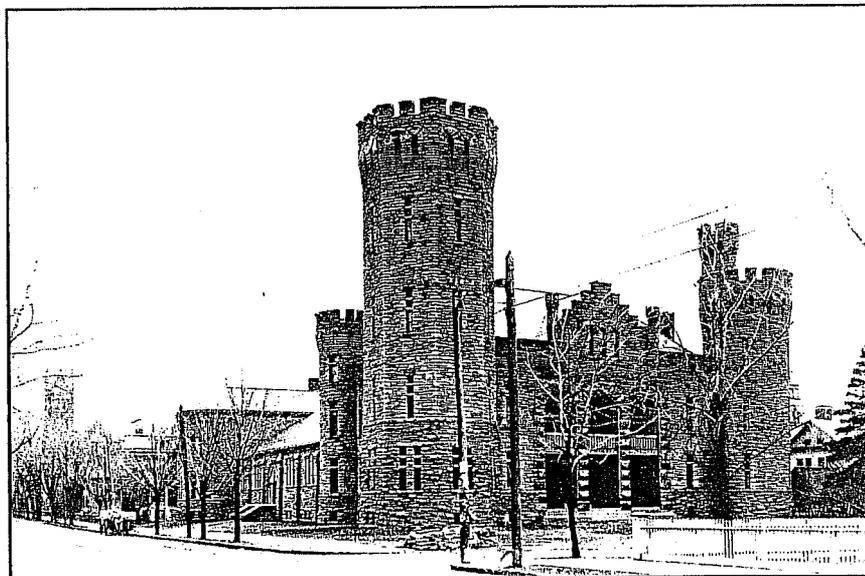


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Public Library

## The Old Arsenal

The old Arsenal, 100 Lafayette St., just east of the Lafayette-Spring Street Bridge was built in 1858 by New York State as an armory. General Schuyler F. Judd, commanding the northern New York militia was credited with getting the state to construct it during the administration of Governor John A. King. The contractor was Urias Pearson of Ogdensburg. H.N. White of Syracuse was the architect. The building was a store-house for old muskets and other ordnance previously used by the militia.

It was purchased by the City of Ogdensburg November 25, 1873 for \$1,400 as a storage for various tools belonging to the City.

The building was sold in 1960 to Frank A. Augsbury, Jr. It now contains executive offices.

The building is listed on the National Historic Register.



Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## Ogdensburg City Hall

The Ogdensburg City Hall is on the site of the Oswegatchie Town Hall and Opera House built in 1880-1881 destroyed by fire January 22, 1926.

Controversy arose between the tax-payers of the town of Oswegatchie and the City of Ogdensburg about the reconstruction of the building. Even though Ogdensburg had received its charter as one of the cities of the State it remained part of the town of Oswegatchie.

On February 9, 1927 the City of Ogdensburg separated from the Town of Oswegatchie.

The cornerstone of the new City Hall was laid October 12, 1929. The building was officially opened and dedicated

November 14, 1930. The facade over the four pillars depicts the symbols of the three sovereign powers that have governed this area, 1749-1796, the fleur-de-lis of France, the lion of England and the eagle of the United States.

The clock and bell, a gift to the city by Mrs. Mary Hall Kellogg and Henry Brown Hall in memory of their father, George Hall, a former Mayor, was dedicated on Memorial Day 1931. The bell tuned as nearly as possible to the tone of the former bell has the musical note of D flat. The bell weighing 4500 pounds was made from 78 parts New Quincy Lake Superior copper and 22 parts best new block tin. The bell was cast at the Maneeley Bell Company in Troy, the same company that cast the original bell that was presented to the city in 1890 by Louis de Villers Hoard.

In 1933, Hanbidge Post No. 69, American Legion in connection with Memorial Day observances presented a sixty-foot flag pole and flag to the city.

An elevator was installed and extensive renovations were done to the auditorium in 1987.

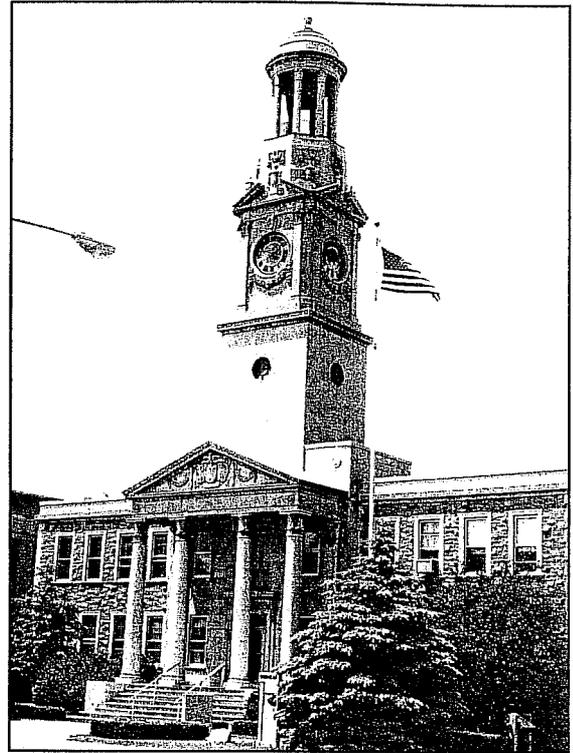


Photo by Steele Photography

## Ogdensburg District Custom House

The stone building known as the Ogdensburg Custom House 127 North Water Street was built in 1809-1810 by French Canadian masons from Montreal supervised by Daniel W. Church under the direction of Joseph Rosseel, agent for David Parish. The area was known as the Parish Store and Wharf.

The building offered protection to both American and British soldiers during the fierce battle on the morning of February 22, 1813 when Ogdensburg was captured by the British. Dim scars of the battle are visible about two feet from the roof peak on the north side of the building.

The George Hall Corp. founded in 1855 operated from this location until December 28, 1927.

During the Civil War a portion served as barracks for 100 men of Company B First Battalion of Massachusetts Cavalry ordered here to protect the frontier from possible southern invaders by way of Canada.

It has been the headquarters of the Ogdensburg Customs District since September 16, 1928 when the offices were moved from the second floor of the Post Office Building. The building was purchased November 10, 1936 from the George Hall Corporation. Thus the St. Lawrence District number 7 of the U.S. Customs, the oldest federal agency in existence was then located in what would become in 1964 the oldest federal government building in the United States. Following purchase by the U.S. government the building was remodeled. On the rain spout at the east end the date 1809 appears and the one on the west end bears the date 1937.

On October 9, 1974 the building was named to the National Historic Register. It was named the Robert C. McEwen United States Custom House on July 26, 1982 for Robert C. McEwen of Riverside Drive who had at that time served 16 years in the United States House of Representatives.

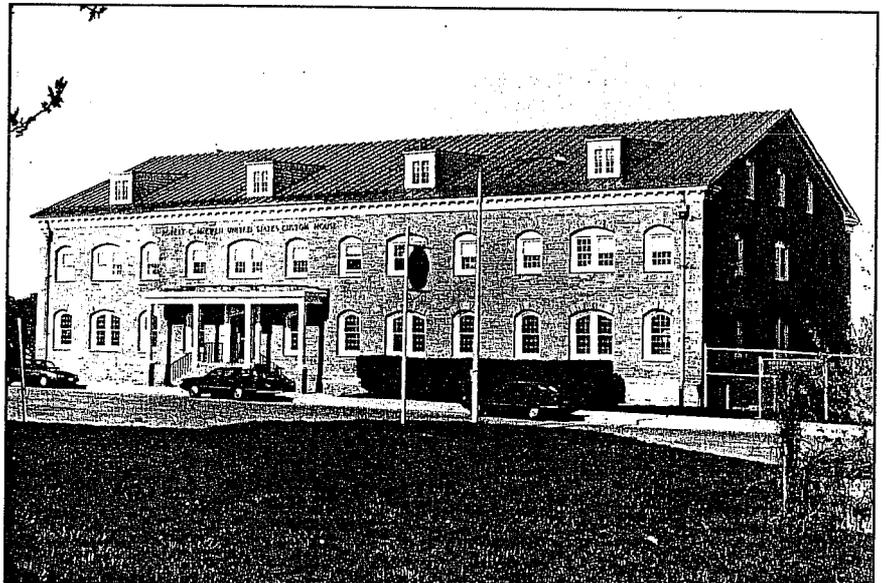


Photo by Steele Photography

## Ogdensburg Public Library

The Ogdensburg Public Library was founded by Dr. Fred Van Dusen, Principal of the Ogdensburg Free Academy, and other public spirited citizens. The library received its charter December 13, 1893.

The site of the library has an interesting history. The original building on the site was constructed in 1840-1841 (not 1809-10 as has been stated in past

references) by Adam Swan, master builder, assisted by Urias Pearson, as a residence for Joseph Rosseel, agent for the Parish interests. The Rosseel property was sold at auction in April 1887 to James G. Averell who purchased the property for his daughter and son-in-law, George C. Clark.

The Rosseel mansion was demolished and a most elegant Victorian building was erected which was reported to have been the most extensive and largest private residence in the City. The Clark family occupied the premises as a summer residence for only a few years when the building and the entire block was acquired in 1895 by public subscription for use as a Public Library and Park.

The Library has been at this site since then with the exception of the years in 1922-23 when the building, through the generosity of George Hall and John C. Howard was remodeled. The original Rosseel house was a one story structure finished in stucco. The Clark mansion was a two story building. In renovating the building, the front entrance and wings on either side are practically replicas of the original Rosseel homestead.

Collections at the library include Edmund J. Sawyer bird paintings, Civil War volumes and documents of General Newton Martin Curtis, local newspapers on microfilm since 1817 and many other documents of local interest.

Over the years the library has been the recipient of many gifts and bequests. The most outstanding has been that of Henry Dundas Mahoney (1913-1983), Ogdensburg native and self-educated civil engineer who left a generous bequest to the library for the purchase of engineering materials. The Mahoney Memorial Engineering collection was dedicated in February 1990.

The Library located at 312 Washington Street, with Library Park, occupies an entire city block.



Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## The Lighthouse

There have been two lighthouses on Lighthouse Point often called Van Rensselaer Point. The first lighthouse was completed by the federal government in 1835. The lighthouse area contained a garden and the whole was enclosed with a stone fence. Over the years the fence and garden disappeared and the building deteriorated to such a bad condition that it was demolished when the present lighthouse, a cut stone structure of one and a half stories was constructed in 1870. The lighthouse tower was about 15 feet higher than the old structure. In 1870 the building was conveniently arranged for the accommodations of the keeper's family. There was a cistern, overground cellar and storeroom. Stone from the old lighthouse was used to construct a wall around the grounds.

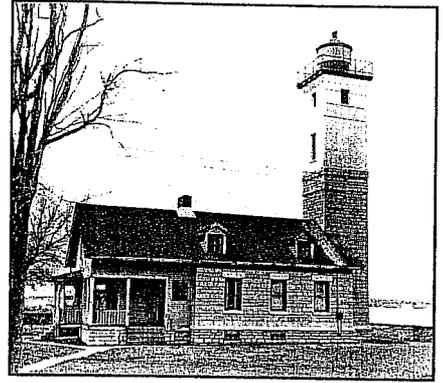


Photo by Steele Photography

Prior to 1875 whale oil was used for fuel to keep the lighthouse beacon aglow. In those days a series of lamps were arranged in a circle with reflectors behind them which threw a steady glow up and down the river. In that year kerosene was substituted for whale oil.

The wooden part of the building was added to the original building and tower in 1890.

In 1900 the lighthouse tower of 40 feet was raised to 60 feet.



Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

Electricity was installed in 1924 and the beam of flashing light could be seen for 14 miles.

The lighthouse was decommissioned in the early 1960's by the U.S. Coast Guard Service. The lighthouse had outgrown its usefulness by the installation of buoy markers.

In 1964 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Roethel purchased the historic lighthouse from the General Services Administration.

Lighthouse Point was the scene of one flank of the invading British on February 22, 1813.

## Preston King House

The large stone building at 602 State Street was the residence of Preston King during the latter years of his life. Preston King (1806-1865), was the first Ogdensburg native to be elected to Congress. His entire life was one of public service: established the newspaper, the St. Lawrence Republican in 1830; Ogdensburg Postmaster 1831-38; member N.Y. Assembly 1835-38; member U.S. House of Representatives 1843-47 and 1849-1853; a prominent founder of the Republican party; U.S. Senator 1857-1863; presidential elector on the Republican ticket of Lincoln and Johnson in 1864; appointed collector of the Port of New York 1865. Mr. King never married.

This house for over 135 years has been owned and occupied by descendants of relatives of Preston King's mother.



Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## Ogdensburg Post Office and Custom House Building

One of the most historic buildings in Ogdensburg has been vacant since 1989 when the Post office was moved to Ford Street by the United States Postal Service.

Located at 431 State Street, it stands in a small block bounded by State, Knox, Spinner and Crescent Streets. Originally designed as a combined Post Office and Custom House, the building constructed in 1868-1870 with exterior walls of Berea sandstone was completed

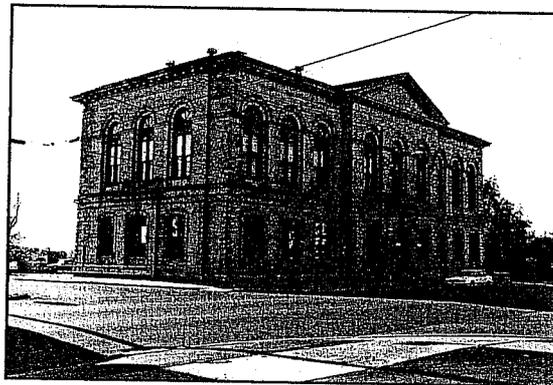


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

May 31, 1870. The stone cutter was William Congalton. Albert B. Mullett was the architect. The three story structure housed the post office, a federal courtroom, the offices of the collector of internal revenue and the special agent of the treasury department. A bonded warehouse was located in the basement. In 1870, the front of the building faced Crescent

Street, then called Water Street. The dome was removed in October 1906.

The first public function in this building was a Society ball for charity, donations going to the Industrial School for Girls in Ogdensburg. The ball was held in the U.S. Courtroom on February 22, 1870.

Two years later on August 7, 1872, a public reception was held here for President Ulysses S. Grant.

The Oswegatchie Customs District created March 2, 1811 included Ogdensburg, Hammond, Louisville, Massena, Morristown and Waddington. The headquarters of the District were here from 1870 until July 1, 1913 when the Oswegatchie, Cape Vincent and Champlain Districts merged as the St. Lawrence District. The headquarters of the St. Lawrence Customs District moved September 16, 1928 to the historic Parish Stone Store at 127 North Water Street.

The building was named to the National Historic Register in 1977.

## Oswegatchie Pumping Station

In the fall of 1867, the Ogdensburgh village trustees applied to the New York state legislature for a city charter. The Charter granted April 27, 1868 provided for the construction of the water works at the expense of the city.

On July 13, 1868 ground was broken for the Oswegatchie pumping station and superintendent's residence at 1 Mechanic Street.

With the exception of the cut stone, all the stone for the massive three-story fortress like structure came from excavations for the foundation for the tail race and the excavations for the water pipes on Lake Street and Rensselaer Avenue. The cost of erecting the building and excavations for the foundation totaled under \$11,000.

Water from the Oswegatchie River was pumped for the first time into the mains on November 7, 1868. Prior to the construction of a central water supply the people depended on private wells and springs which were often polluted.

The Oswegatchie River was used as the source of the city's water supply until June 13, 1912 when water was obtained by the way of the St. Lawrence pumping station at the lower end of Monroe Avenue and the filtration plant on Jefferson Avenue.

This water distribution system was replaced by two water towers built in 1976-77.

In 1990, the Oswegatchie pumping station was placed on the national register of historic places.

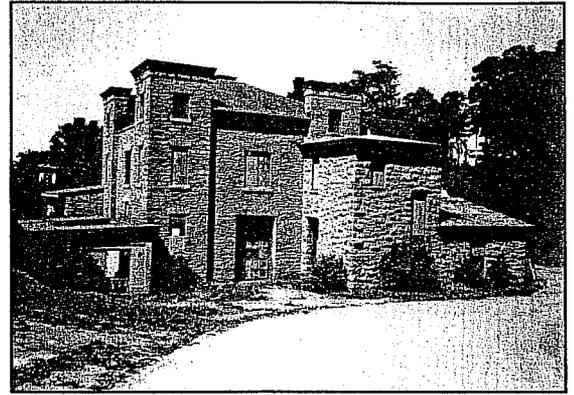


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburgh Planning Office

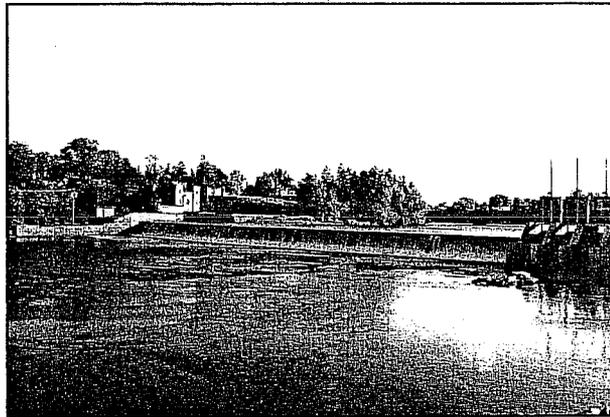


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburgh Planning Office

## Frederic Remington Art Museum

Construction of the building now known as the Frederic Remington Art Museum began in 1809 under the superintendence of Daniel W. Church, Master Carpenter, under the direction of Joseph Rosseel, agent of David Parish, for his residence.

In 1812, Jean Jacques Joseph Ramee, famous French architect and landscape gardener, planned the interior decorating and landscaping. The buildings of Union College in Schenectady, New York were designed by him in 1813.

During the Parish ownership, residents of the mansion have been David Parish; his brother, George; and his nephew, George.

On August 1, 1817, James Monroe, the first American President to visit Ogdensburg, was a luncheon guest here of George.

Madame Ameriga de Vespucci, known in Ogdensburg as "Parish's Fancy", resided here from 1841-1859. A rosewood parlor set made by John Henry Belter is displayed in the Parish-Vespucci Room.

Following Parish ownership, the mansion was successively owned by N.P. Wooley and George Hall. During the Hall ownership, the mansion underwent a series of changes when it was remodeled and decorated with the most expensive woodwork.



Photo courtesy of Frederic Remington Art Museum

In honor of their friend, Frederic Remington (1861-1909), George Hall and John C. Howard planned to build a combined Library and Art Memorial to house the Remington Art Collection which had been bequeathed to the city by Remington's widow, Eva Caten Remington (1859-1918). The plans of Mr. Hall and Mr. Howard were aborted by the untimely death of Mr. Hall. The Hall residence was given as part of the subscription and renovated into the Remington Art Memorial which opened July 19, 1923.

The museum features the largest single collection of Remington's works, including 77 major oil paintings, 16 bronze sculptures and many watercolors and drawings. The collection is particularly strong in Remington's later works and his works from the Northern New York area. Also on display are Remington's furniture, artist's tools and art works that he owned. In the collection, but not on display, are many of Remington's personal papers, letters and photographs.

The Victorian Decorative Arts Collection of Mr. and Mrs. J. Franklin Sharp given by Mrs. Mabel (Bristol) Sharp (1880-1962), in her lifetime, features 19th century European and American glass, Meissen porcelain and English Jasperware.

The Addie Priest Newell Gallery was dedicated April 25, 1976.

Work began in September, 1994, on a \$2.3 million expansion project. Through the expansion, the Museum will gain much needed curatorial, exhibition, education, and storage spaces. A link will be made to connect the Parish Mansion and the 311 Washington Street property. In addition to an increase in space, several areas in both buildings will be restored to earlier periods. The project is to be completed in 1997.

## CHURCHES

### Stained Glass Window Art

Ogdensburg has a rich ecclesiastical history. Many of the early churches were constructed of stone. Well known architects, J. P. Johnston designed the Congregational and Emlen T. Littel the Episcopal church. The oldest church building is the Baptist Church with the cornerstone laid July 3, 1830. The history of all the church organizations in Ogdensburg is too lengthy for this compilation.

Ogdensburg has a wealth of art in the stained glass windows in some of the local churches. Harry J. Horwood of Ogdensburg, internationally known stained glass artisan, a descendant of generations of stained glass artisans, executed windows located in the following churches in Ogdensburg: Baptist, Congregational, Notre Dame, Presbyterian and Wadhams Hall. Many private homes in Ogdensburg have some decorative Horwood stained glass windows.

The stained glass windows of St. Mary's Cathedral done by Edward W. Heimer depict history with religious context. The windows of local historical interest are titled: Father Picquet Founder Ogdensburg, 1749; Bishop Conroy Founds Wadhams Hall, 1924; Bishop de Pontbriand Confirming Indians At Ogdensburg, 1752; and Bishop Wadhams Consecrated by Archbishop McCluskey, May 5, 1872.

### Presbyterian Church

This church evolved from the first religious association formed in Ogdensburg in 1805, the First Church and Congregation of Christ in the Town of Oswegatchie. The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1819. The first Horwood stained glass window installed in the church was dedicated to the founders of the church. The church is located at 423 Ford Street.

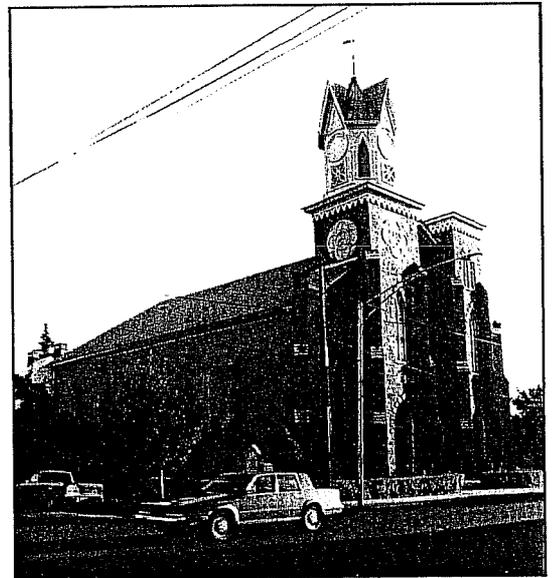


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## Baptist Church

The Baptist Church was formed July 29, 1809. The corner stone for the stone church at 603 State Street was laid July 3, 1830. This is the oldest church building in Ogdensburg. During the following 165 years the building has had many renovations. Many Horwood windows are here. One is a memorial to the founders of the church.

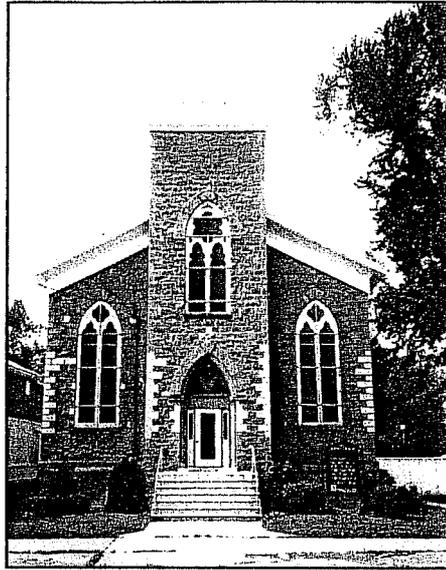


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## St. John's Episcopal Church

The first Episcopal minister visited Ogdensburg in 1816. On May 23, 1820, St. John's Parish was formed into a corporate body. The church was built on a lot given for a church building by the brothers, David and George Parish. The present building constructed in 1870-71 was designed by Emlen T. Littell. In the early part of the 20th century Horwood stained glass windows were installed and later removed during extensive renovations. St. John's Church is located at 500 Caroline Street.

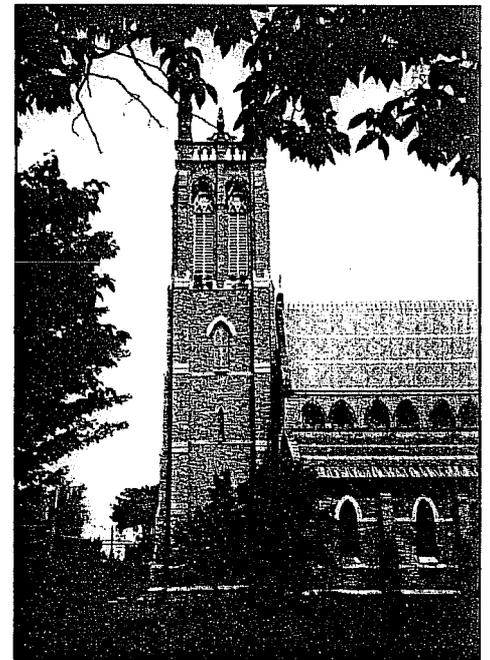


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

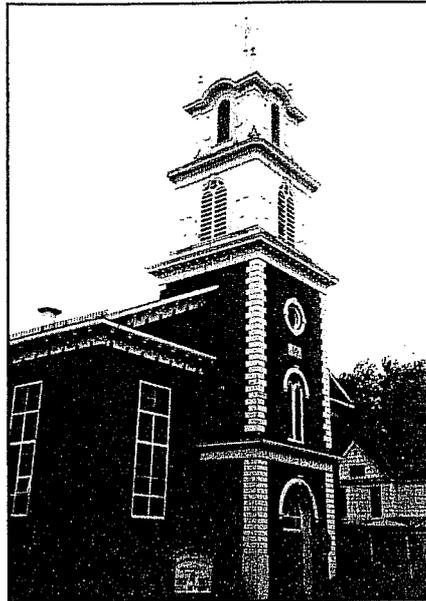


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## Methodist Church

This church was incorporated February 22, 1825. George Parish donated a lot at the corner of Montgomery and Caroline Streets for church purposes. The present building erected in 1850 has undergone several renovations during the succeeding years.

## St. Mary's Cathedral

A small stone chapel served the Catholics until the erection of St. Mary's Church on Franklin Street in 1852. It became the Cathedral with the erection of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1872. This burned November 25, 1947. The Horwood stained glass windows were destroyed. The present St. Mary's Cathedral at 415 Hamilton Street was erected in 1950 and consecrated October 22, 1952. The stained glass windows depict historical and religious topics.



Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## Notre Dame De La Victoire Church

By 1858 there were about 200 French families in Ogdensburg. The early records of many of these families may be found in St. Mary's or in St. John's Episcopal Church. By 1858 they felt that they were able to build a church and to support a priest. At first services were held in Eagles Hall, a building still extant located in the Ogdensburg Mall. The corner stone for Notre Dame Church located at 125 Ford Avenue was laid in July 1859. There are some Horwood windows here.

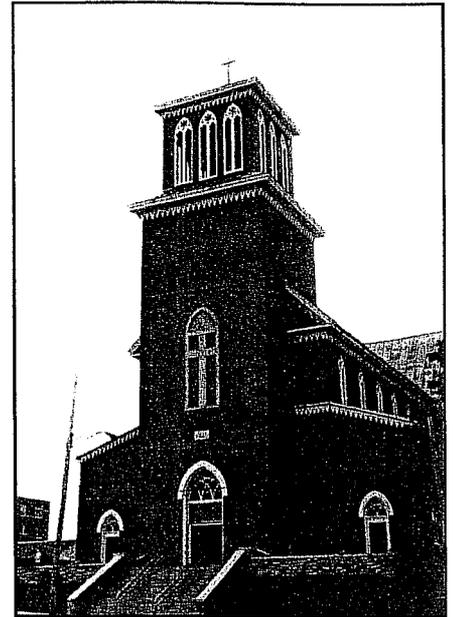


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office



Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## Congregational Church

The Congregational Church, 300 New York Avenue, was organized May 2, 1882 with construction the same year. The architect was J. P. Johnston. Dedication was August 28, 1884. The church has several Horwood windows.



Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Public Library

## Congregation Anshe Zophen Synagogue

The Congregation Anshe Zophen (People of the North), was organized September 16, 1875. For many years the Congregation held meetings on the third floor of the Fisher building no longer in existence. In 1924, the Congregation purchased the former Universalist Church building at 416 Greene Street for use as a Synagogue.

### Hepburn Medical Center

The fore-runner of the Hepburn Medical Center was opened November 23, 1885, at the request of Bishop Wadhams, in the convent owned by the Grey Nuns who had in the 1860's purchased from the Ford Estate the Nathan Ford mansion built in 1805.

The hospital was incorporated February 10, 1886 as The Ogdensburg City Hospital and Orphan Asylum. The hospital remained at this site until it was moved in 1902 across King Street to its present site. This was largely through efforts and gifts of George Hall (1847-1919).

The Ogdensburg City Hospital opened May 22, 1902 and was known as such until 1918. A. Barton Hepburn (1846-1925), Colton native, lawyer, banker, author and philanthropist gave more than \$1,237,500 to the hospital which was expanded and named for him in 1918.

Upon completion of a three year course the School of Nursing graduated its first class June 13, 1905. The last class was graduated June 9, 1968.

The history of the A. Barton Hepburn Hospital has been one of growth in relation to the community needs. The Nurses Home was completed in 1921, a new wing was

built in 1932, the west wing constructed in 1957-59 and the west wing renovated at that time. The 1902 building was demolished in 1958. A new \$3,200,000 wing for patient services was added in 1974-75. The Health Center opened November 22, 1970 in the former Nurses' Home.

The site of the Nathan Ford mansion and the first hospital in Ogdensburg is now a parking lot across the street from The Hepburn Medical Center's main entrance.

The year 1989 was a year of progress. In September, Ogdensburg residents voted in a referendum to sell a portion of Rensselaer Avenue to the hospital for future expansion and modernization. In December, renovation began for a 28-bed acute psychiatric unit. Magnetic Resonance Imaging was introduced. A \$635,000 angiograph unit was the only unit north of Syracuse to be accredited by the American College of Radiology.

The St. Lawrence Maternal Health Care Center opened in April 1990. In December 1990, the center was dedicated as The Dr. Joseph R. Brandy, Jr. Maternity Center. Dr. Brandy died October 15, 1990 in a tragic airplane accident.



Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

In 1992 the hospital launched a three phase renovation program to meet the needs of the 21st century. The first phase was the cancer treatment center. In progress in 1995 is the construction of a medical office building. Phase three is the construction of a hospital complex to replace the 1918 building.

The hospital named the Cancer Treatment Center for Richard Winter who donated a major gift towards the construction of the \$2.5 million cancer center. In June 1993, the Ogdensburg City Council authorized the sale of the 200 block of Rensselaer Avenue to the Hospital making it possible for the construction of the Center and the construction of a medical office building over the street. Ground breaking ceremonies were held June 5, 1993. A contract was signed with Oncology Services Corporation for the management of the center. The Richard Winter Cancer Treatment Center opened in February 1994.

In December 1994, the advanced cardiac ultrasound, transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) examination to diagnose heart disease was made available.

On January 23, 1995, the A. Barton Hepburn Hospital was officially named the Hepburn Medical Center.

## St. Joseph's Home

At the request of Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams, Our Lady of Victory Convent and Boarding School, originally the Nathan Ford mansion, was opened by the Grey Nuns November 23, 1885 as a home for the sick, the indigent, aged persons and orphans. Five elderly women, one elderly man, three orphan boys and two orphan girls were admitted the same month. It was incorporated February 10, 1886 as the Ogdensburg City Hospital and Orphan Asylum.

The number of inmates increased rapidly. Seven years later a north stone wing was added to the old mansion. The number of inmates by 1901 were 157 orphans, 48 aged and 300 ill persons.

In 1902, services were separated with the construction of the new City Hospital on King Street opposite the site of the orphanage. In 1995, the hospital is known as the Hepburn Medical Center.

A new constitution adopted December 30, 1922 titled The Diocesan Home for Aged and Orphans replaced the old corporation of the Ogdensburg City Hospital and Orphan asylum.

The institution ceased as an orphanage in 1959. In 1960 St. Joseph's Home moved to a new building on Lafayette Street. In 1995, it is the residence of 82 persons.

## St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center

On April 29, 1886, the New York State Legislature approved the bill of General Newton Martin Curtis, Assemblyman, authorizing the appointment of five commissioners to locate a mental hospital in northern New York.

On May 18, 1887, Chapter 375 New York State Law was passed which ratified the selection of Ogdensburg as the site of a mental hospital. Construction began in 1888 with Center Building. The architect was Isaac Perry.

Dr. Peter M. Wise (1851-1907) was appointed the first medical superintendent on August 29, 1889. He supervised the admission of the first 140 patients who arrived in Ogdensburg, December 9, 1890, via special train coaches and horse-drawn sleighs to the hospital.

The day after the admission of the first patients the School of Nursing opened. The first class was graduated May 23, 1893. Eighty-eight years later on May 24, 1981 the last class was graduated.

Buildings were named for prominent people. Curtis Hall, completed in 1896, was named in 1910 for Gen. N.M. Curtis (1835-1910). Letchworth named for William Pryor Letchworth (1823-1910), one of the five commissioners, whose persuasive influence secured approval of the Ogdensburg site known locally as "Point Airy". Letchworth closed for inpatient use October 4, 1989. Flower Building named in 1912 for Gov. Roswell P. Flower (1835-1899) was vacated in 1982 and rehabilitated by the Department of Correctional Services for the use of a medium security facility. Pritchard Pavilion was dedicated June 13, 1951 to Dr. John A. Pritchard (1879-1952), director of the hospital 1939 to 1949.

A new 300 bed Trinity Building was opened March 2, 1982. The Children and Youth Services Building opened October 26, 1986. On April 20, 1987 the Intensive Day Treatment Program/Crisis Residence opened. Bridgeview, a 70 bed care building, was opened in 1990.

The St. Vincent de Paul Chapel was completed March 3, 1907. The Protestant Chapel and Synagogue was dedicated November 16, 1958.

A very important first in New York State mental health care was the initiation of Dr. Herman Snow's open door policy in 1955.

The St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center serves six counties of northern New York.

## United Helpers

The Society of United Helpers was founded March 28, 1898 for the care of orphans and destitute children. Its first home was a small house on Congress Street.

In 1899 a site was purchased on State Street and a building was erected. Later additions were made as care extended from babies to the elderly. After 1959 other agencies assumed the responsibility for the homeless and indigent children.

In the 1970's a new United Helpers was erected on Riverside Drive on the site of the former Pythian Home just over the City boundary. United Helpers operates both an Intermediate Care Facility and a halfway house in Ogdensburg.

The Society of United Helpers in its 97 years has been very important to Ogdensburg.

## PRESIDENTIAL VISITS

Four United States Presidents have visited Ogdensburg and all have visited in the month of August.

On a trip through the northern states, James Monroe visited Ogdensburg on August 1, 1817. He was met by a group of men who escorted him into town preceded by band music. Louis Hasbrouck welcomed him on behalf of the trustees and inhabitants of the Village. He was the luncheon guest of George Parish, brother of David who had constructed the building now known as the Frederic Remington Art Museum. In the evening he stayed with David Ford, brother of Nathan, at Morristown, New York.

Martin Van Buren, on August 26, 1839, after having visited Silas Wright at Canton, arrived by carriage at the Exchange Hotel where he was welcomed by former Congressman Ransom H. Gillet. He left the next day for Sackets Harbor on the Steamboat, Oneida.

Arriving in Ogdensburg at Averell's dock, August 7, 1872, Ulysses S. Grant at one of the largest celebrations ever held in Ogdensburg, Col. Seth P. Remington, collector of the Oswegatchie custom district and father of Frederic, who became the famous artist of the old west, organized the day's activities, the highlight of which was a reception in the U.S. Courtroom, second floor of the United States Post Office and Custom House. The Presidential party left from the Lake Champlain Railroad depot for Washington, D.C.

On August 17, 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt arrived in Norwood to inspect the eight divisions in the maneuver areas of the nation's largest mock-war peacetime activities. Arriving in Ogdensburg in the late afternoon he went to Ogdensburg Free Academy and viewed two large maps showing troop disposition and the airplane warning service. He then went to his private railway car at the New York Central Station where he was soon joined by Prime Minister William Lyon McKenzie King of Canada. In a short time the railway car was moved to Heuvelton where both heads of state remained overnight. On Sunday morning, August 18, the President and the Prime Minister inspected first Army Aircraft at the Ogdensburg Airport.

The result of the meeting of the two heads of state was that a Permanent Joint Board of Defense was set up by the two countries, which has come to be known in history as "The Ogdensburg Agreement". The year 1995 marks the 55th anniversary of this agreement.

## PARKS

### Crescent Park

Crescent Park is located on the east bank of the Oswegatchie River. The area was saved from development by a group of ladies who circulated a petition requesting that George Parish, the owner, then residing abroad, donate the land to the City.

George Parish, nephew of the brothers, David and George, granted the wish of the ladies as did Elijah B. Allen, an adjoining land owner. Mr. Parish's Deed was recorded June 18, 1868.

The park was referred to as "Central" or "River" or "River Bank Park" until June 7, 1885 when a small group of men discussed the matter at the residence of Louis de Villers Hoard. The name "Crescent Park" was selected.

### Ford Vault

The Ford family vault, northwest of the Lafayette-Spring Street Bridge, is located on Lincoln Ave. facing Lake Street and the Oswegatchie River.

Nathan Ford made his final will twelve days before his death, wherein he instructed his executors "to select a proper site for the building of a vault to deposit the dead, and that a reservation of one quarter of an acre of land be made for that purpose, and the same be held and used as a Family Vault". The provisions of the Will were carried out in the fall of 1829. Nineteen burials took place here.

In 1895 extensive repairs were made to the vault. A solid brick wall was constructed across the interior of the vault ten feet from the door. The remains were placed in the space behind the wall. The enclosed space was filled with earth.

In 1906 the Executors of the estate of Susan Isabella Jones, niece of Nathan Ford, conveyed

the vault property to the City of Ogdensburg, the City to take care of as part of the city park system. In that year the iron doors were removed and the doorway sealed with stone. A Picton Island red granite monument was erected on the apex of the vault. Inscriptions are on the monument to the memory of Nathan Ford, a pioneer and founder of Ogdensburg; his brother David, a pioneer of Morristown, NY; Anastasia, wife of David Ford and to Lewis Morris Ogden, son of Samuel Ogden, after whom the village and city of Ogdensburg was named.

The vault was in the Town of Oswegatchie until 1851 when the second ward of the village was created.

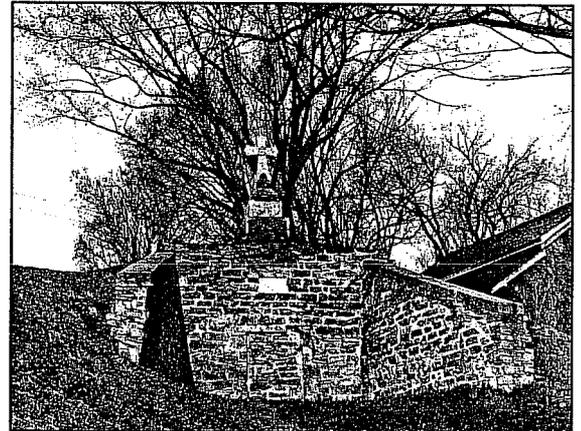


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## Groulx Veterans Memorial Park

Groulx Veterans Memorial Park is a small triangular park at the easterly end of Ford street near the spur to the Ogdensburg arterial. In the center there is a pyramidal cairn constructed of cobblestones from the St. Lawrence river erected to the memory of Charles A. Groulx of Company H, 9th Regiment of Infantry, son of Xavier and Josephine Groulx. He was the first Ogdensburg soldier to die in battle in WW I near Chateau-Thierry on the Marne front July 5, 1918.

The memorial was dedicated November 11, 1933. The tablet was unveiled by the mother of the deceased soldier. Rev. James E. Duffy, State Chaplain of the American Legion delivered the dedicatory address. George Madlin, Commander of Hanbidge Post No. 69 presented the monument to the City of Ogdensburg which was accepted by Mayor Morissette.

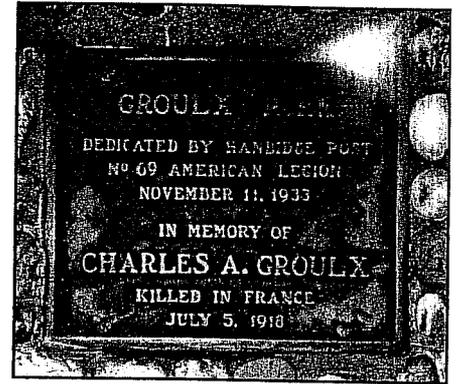


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

Over the years several memorials to veterans had been placed on the west lawn of the City Hall. In 1993 these were removed to the Park. On November 11, 1993 Groulx Veterans Memorial Park was dedicated to the memory of all deceased veterans and recognition of all living veterans.

There is a plain monument with the inscription, "In Memory Of All World War I Veterans".

The World War II memorial has the inscription, "In Honor of the Ogdensburg Heroes of WW II Who Made the Supreme Sacrifice", followed by the names of the 58 deceased veterans. The monument was dedicated August 15, 1948 by Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, the general who refused to surrender to the Germans during the battle of the Bulge with the terse reply, "Nuts". The monument was erected by Ogdensburg Post 2936 Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The memorial for the Korean War 1950-1955 has 141 names with branches of service and status POW or KIA.

The Vietnam Conflict 1964-1975 has the names of the three veterans who made the supreme sacrifice, Timothy Carmody, Paul A. Conroy Jr., and Robert W. Wood. This was originally dedicated in October 1987.

The Persian Gulf War lists the names of 46 veterans.

## Grove Park

Located in the Second Ward it was known at an early date as Grove Square, an area that was reserved by the city for Park purposes. It is bounded by Grove, Oak Streets, Albany and Madison Avenues.

It was not until the late 1890's when the area was surrounded by residences that it was improved by removal of stones, ground leveling and tree planting.

## Haley Park

The Ogdensburg City Council in 1959 set aside Haley Park at Ford and Bigelow Streets as a memorial to Mrs. Charles Haley.

The floral urn, once a water fountain for animals at Commerce Street, was dedicated to Mrs. Haley in 1928 by the St. Lawrence County S.P.C.A., "In Memory of Isabel Woodley Haley - To Man and to Beast a Friend - 1928".



Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## Hamilton Park

Hamilton Park, located in the Third Ward, is bounded by Paterson, Knox, Hamilton and Greene streets. This area was originally used as a cemetery from 1820 to 1847. Most of the remains were moved to other cemeteries in 1863. Those with tombstones not claimed by interested persons were removed to the present Riverside Cemetery, formerly called "Potter's Field".

In the mid 1860's the former cemetery was converted into a park.

## Library Park

Library Park covering a city block is bounded by Washington, Caroline, State Streets and Riverside Avenue. In this block is the Ogdensburg Public Library. The area was acquired in 1895.

The majestic Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil War Monument executed by Sally James Farnham is here. Library Park is known for its beautiful flower gardens.

## Mansion Park

Mansion Park, embracing a city block located in the Second Ward, is bounded by New York Ave., Ogden St., Ford and Rensselaer Avenues. It is the oldest park in the city. A map of the Ford Mansion and Fordville property in 1836 names the area now known as Mansion Park, "Mansion Square". By 1852 it was called "Public Square".

At a meeting of the Ogdensburg Village trustees, September 8, 1851 a committee was appointed to locate a piece of ground for a public square. Village Minutes in April 1852 show expenses for improving Public Square in the Second Ward. It is said that the square was donated to the Village and the trustees accepted the gift.

Later the name was changed to Mansion Park in honor of the owner, Nathan Ford, from the late 18th century until his death in 1829. Mr. Ford had constructed a large mansion, 1805-06, in the area now the parking lot on King Street opposite the hospital.

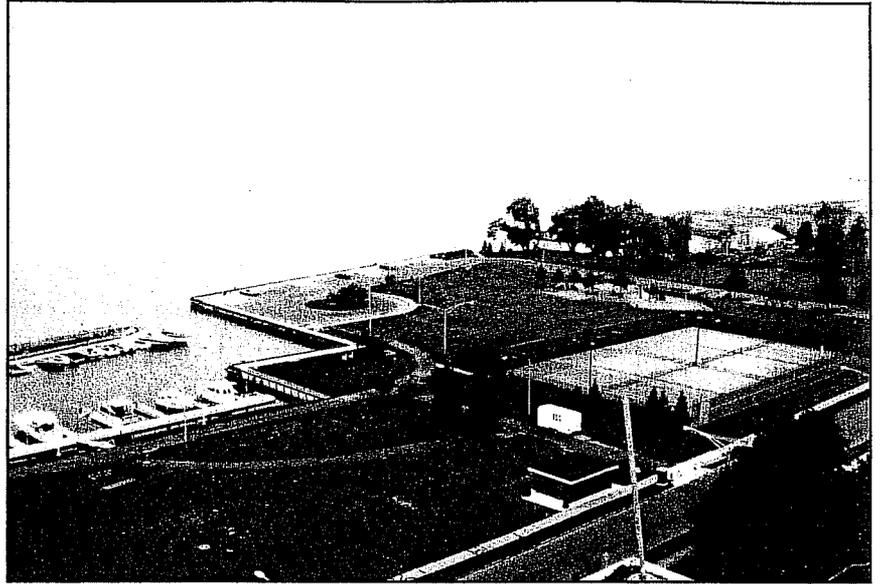


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

## Morissette Park

The City acquired in 1895 the dock property of George Clark to be held for a public park forever. It became known as Riverside Park. The Park located on Riverside Avenue north of Library Park was dedicated to Ralph J. Morissette, Mayor of Ogdensburg 1932-1935.

In 1934, funding from the Civil Works Administration and Temporary Emergency Relief Administration made for extensive developments in the area. Land adjacent to the river front was reclaimed for park purposes. A basin for the safe mooring of pleasure craft was provided and four tennis courts were constructed.

In earlier times the grounds were used for base and foot ball playing and also a place for drill for the 40th Separate Company.

## MONUMENTS

### Fort La Presentation Monument

Swе-Kat-Si Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution was the organization responsible for the erection of the monument to commemorate the site of the mission and fort erected in 1749 by Abbe Francois Picquet, the first white settlement in Ogdensburg.

The Fort La Presentation monument, the first public monument erected in Ogdensburg is a 40 foot obelisk of blocks of alternating roughhewn and polished Barre granite. The monument was first erected on a site partially upon railroad property and partially in the streets of the city, by the intersection of Ferry and Commerce Streets. The location was determined by Thomas B. Tate, Ogdensburg City Engineer, one of the few then living who remembered the old fort. The monument was dedicated and given to the city October 5, 1899.

Seventy years later the monument was moved a few hundred feet to a site on the northeast side of Notre Dame Church. Re-dedication ceremonies were held July 26, 1970.

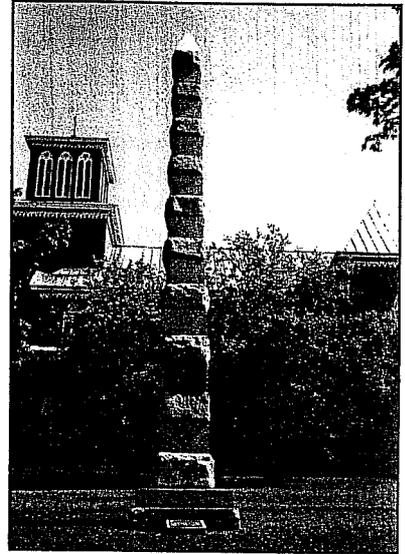


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

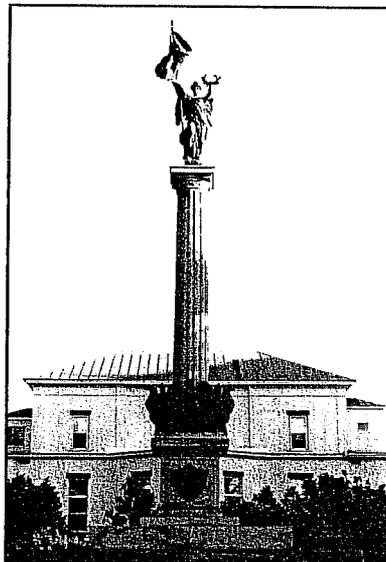


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

### Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Library Park

This Civil War Memorial designed by Ogdensburg's own Sally James Farnham (1868-1943) internationally known sculptress and daughter of Col. Edward C. James, was unveiled and dedicated August 23, 1905 to 934 soldiers and sailors from the Town of Oswegatchie who served in 24 regiments and other units in the Civil War. Vice-President Charles W. Fairbanks represented President Theodore Roosevelt at the largest gathering ever witnessed in Ogdensburg. The flag used for veiling the monument floated from the top of the Eiffel Tower on July 4, 1900 being the highest point in the world made by man on which the American

flag had ever been placed.

The monument titled, "The Spirit of Liberty" is composed of a Roman column on a pedestal. The column is surmounted by the figure of Liberty in bronze. At the base of the column are four bronze war eagles with wings spread. On the pedestal are four bronze shields, Each shield bearing a different design: a coat of arms of the United States, of the State of New York, of St. Lawrence County, and the inscription "1861-1865 To the Soldiers and Sailors, town of Oswegatchie, War of Rebellion". On one side stood a full size bronze figure of a soldier on guard. Vandalism over the years has caused the soldier to be removed to storage.

## Gen. Newton Martin Curtis Monument

Civil War General Newton Martin Curtis, hero of the battle of Fort Fisher, North Carolina was a St. Lawrence County native. The son of Jonathan and Phoebe Rising Curtis was born at DePeyster May 21, 1835. He was instrumental in organizing a company from DePeyster to answer the President's call for men to recover U.S. property seized at Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861. He was Captain of Company G, Sixteenth Regiment New York Infantry Volunteers. His civil war service is related on a plaque placed on the pedestal of the monument. He won the Medal of Honor for his gallantry, having been wounded four times and losing his left eye.

Gen. Curtis died in New York City in 1910. He had been a resident of Ogdensburg for many years from the time of his discharge from Army service. He is buried in the Ogdensburg cemetery.

The monument, a gift to the City from the New York State Monument Commission was the work of Roland Hinton Perry and dedicated October 2, 1913 by the General's four daughters and officers and members of the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

For eighty-two years the monument was located on the Crescent Street side of the Post Office-U.S. Customs building which closed in 1989. In May 1995, the monument was moved to an area in the Greenbelt near the site of the Ogdensburg Declaration Plaque. The monument faces in the same direction as positioned on its original site. A rededication ceremony was held September 30, 1995.



Photo by Terry Fischer

## Ogdensburg Declaration Plaque

This plaque of international interest is located in the Greenbelt area near the approximate site of the old Prescott-Ogdensburg ferry dock. The plaque commemorates the meeting of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister William L. MacKenzie King of Canada in President Roosevelt's private railway car located at Ogdensburg and Heuvelton on August 17 and 18, 1940. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways the two countries would cooperate in the defense of the North American continent.

The plaque donated in 1948 by the Kiwanis clubs of Ottawa and Ogdensburg was dedicated August 17, 1948 at a site on the south side of the Prescott-Ogdensburg ferry terminal building (now the Community Center) at the foot of Isabella Street. It was here that Prime Minister King arrived in Ogdensburg for the historic meeting with President Roosevelt. After the completion of the Ogdensburg-Prescott Bridge the plaque was removed to the bridge plaza and rededicated April 27, 1961. In the 1990's the plaque was removed from the bridge plaza to an area in the Greenbelt in proximity to the 1948 site.

The plaque reads:

"In commemoration of the meeting on August 17-18, 1940, in Ogdensburg, of the President of the United States of America, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honorable William Lyon MacKenzie King, at which time and place they made known the intention of the two countries to cooperate in the defense of the North American continent in a declaration now known as the Ogdensburg Declaration. The Kiwanis Clubs of Ogdensburg, N.Y. and Ottawa, Canada do hereby in brotherly love dedicate this plaque to the furtherance of understanding and international good will."

This declaration is also known as the Ogdensburg Agreement.

## Bigelow Street Bridge

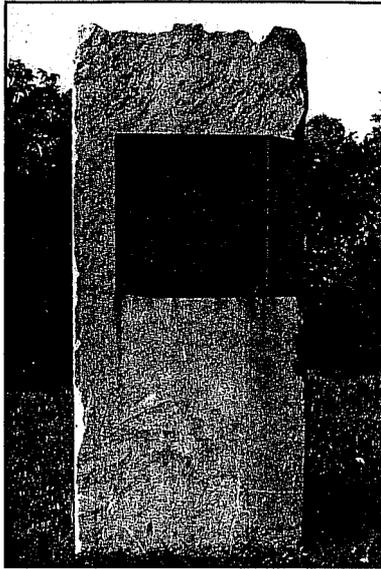


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

On the left side of Ford Street at the end of Bigelow Street, there is located a marble monument with plaque commemorating the site of the bridge built to accommodate vehicular and pedestrian traffic from Ford, Bigelow and Lisbon Streets (now Proctor Ave.) that crossed the deep cut caused by the laying of the railroad tracks of the Northern New York Railroad in 1850. The first train arrived in Ogdensburg September 26, 1850.

The plaque relates some extensive corporate history of the Rutland Railroad which does not relate specifically to the local railroad history.

The Northern Railroad incorporated in 1845, reorganized in 1858 into a company called the Ogdensburg Railroad. In 1864 it was reorganized again into the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain Railroad which became absorbed into the Rutland Railway company in 1901. In 1950 the Rutland Railway company reorganized into the Rutland Railway.

The bridge, long known as the Bigelow Street Bridge, rested on two stone piers located halfway down each slope. Large fourteen by sixteen inch timbers placed lower down the slope near the rip-rap drainage ditches gave additional support. The area over the track was covered with wooden planks. The Bridge was relocated in later years to a crossing over the tracks at the junction of Ford Street and Proctor Avenue.

The plaque indicating the site of the first railroad bridge in Ogdensburg was dedicated August 22, 1968.

## SCHOOLS

In 1849 the law establishing free schools was passed. This resulted in the building of Public School No. 1 in 1850 where is now located Sherman School, named for Dr. S.N. Sherman, an avid advocate of free schools.

Today there are four public elementary schools Sherman, Lincoln, Madill and Kennedy.

The Ogdensburg Free Academy was first located in the old Town Hall built on the corner lot of Franklin and Washington Streets.

The Academy opened in 1881 and remained at

that site until the opening in September 1910 of the building, the Helen Hall Academy, donated to the city by George Hall. Over the years there have been made many additions, renovations and new construction to the buildings located at the State Street site.

The erection of the Edgar A. Newell II Memorial Building was made possible through the Newell Family and the Newell Foundation. At the time of its dedication July 28, 1972 it was the largest geodesic dome in the world, consisting of 1,300 diamond shaped panels, with an outside diameter of 234 feet and 51,000 square feet

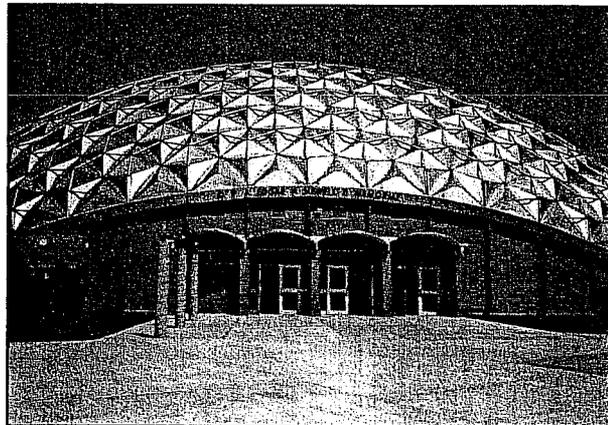


Photo courtesy of Ogdensburg Planning Office

of floor space. The \$1,650,000 plus Golden Dome serves as a track, hockey rink, cultural center and general sports facility for Ogdensburg. Parker and Soper of Watertown were the architects.

The golden dome is a landmark that can be seen for great distances.

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## Ogdensburg Seal Tells City Story

An ordinance to establish a city "common seal" was adopted by the City's first common council on June 2, 1868. It said "The common council of the city of Ogdensburg do enact as follows:

1. The common seal of the city of Ogdensburg shall bear the device of maple trees on a river bank, surrounded with the words, engraved in a circle, 'Ogdensburg', at the top of the circle; 'City 1868' at the bottom; and in small letters on the left, 'Founded 1749', and on the right 'Village 1817'.

The ordinance was adopted unanimously. It was written by the city's first mayor, St. Lawrence County Judge William C. Brown. City publications in 1881 showed, in addition to the trees and riverbank, the Spring/Lafayette Street Bridge, the Ogdensburg Dam and a train. The words were those stipulated in the ordinance. The city in 1868 paid \$35 to John F. Seely, a local jeweler, for the seal. The version used by the city now is the one in Brown's ordinance.

Text by Elizabeth Baxter, City Historian 1964-1986.

This stained glass seal was executed by students at Canton ATC under the supervision of Richard Ashley, stained glass instructor. It is on permanent display at the entrance to the City Hall Council Room.

