



The West Side Story

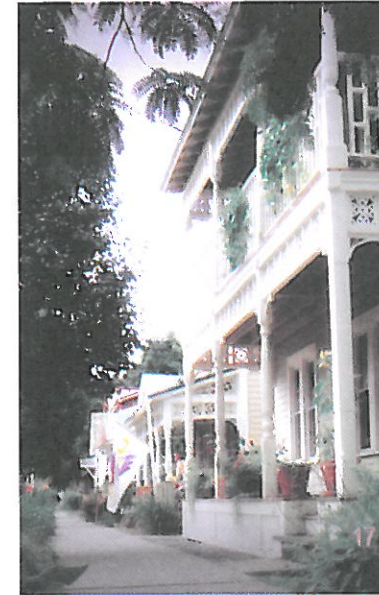
This area of Saratoga Springs was the City's first prime residential location. Among the West Side's residents were people from all walks of life, from bankers to hotel owners to harness makers. Over time, when hotels and cure institutes became more firmly established in the community, churches and boarding houses sprang up, offering support to the tourist industry.

During that same period, railroads were built and trains brought people to the back door of Saratoga's popular hotels, which lined Broadway. The railroads provided work for the influx of Irish and Italian immigrants who, in turn brought ethnic flavor to their neighborhoods located slightly to the south end of the West Side. Street festivals, ethnic clubs and restaurants sprang up, particularly in and around Beekman Street, an area that became generally referred to as "Dublin."

Adjacent to "Dublin," African-Americans settled on Congress Street, adding to the labor force of the hotels and other tourist related industries, including nightly entertainment at local restaurants.

It was on Congress Street that Hattie Mosley first opened the famous "Chicken Shack" restaurant. During the 1960's, Urban Renewal forced the demolition of much of Congress Street, paving the way for its current commercial use.

In the late 1990s, a grassroots effort began on the West Side to revive the well loved "Dublin" area and the Beekman Street Art District was born. The Renaissance of Beekman Street has brought art galleries, workshops, restaurants and community events back to the West Side, restoring its original diversity and vitality.



Beekman Street Art District

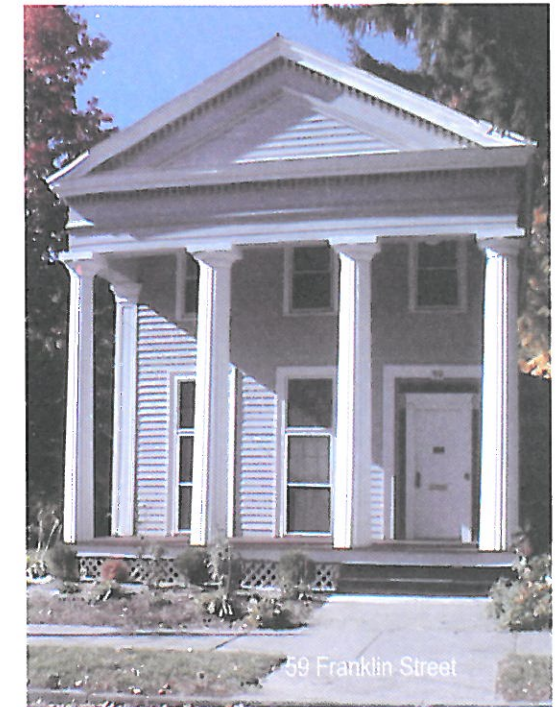
An old Saratoga neighborhood
now home to the
Saratoga Springs artist community.

Stop by the Saratoga Springs Heritage Area
Visitor Center ~ 297 Broadway
(at the corner of Congress Street)
offering tour services, maps and brochures.
Ask to view the 15 minute video
Discover Saratoga!

*A publication of the
Saratoga Springs Heritage Area Visitor Center
A New York State Heritage Area Program
with special thanks to the
Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation
Historic photos courtesy of the Bolster Collection
and the Saratoga Springs History Museum
Sponsored by the City of Saratoga Springs
Revised 2009*

SARATOGA SPRINGS SELF-GUIDED TOUR

West Side Neighborhood



The City's first prime residential location

Where many of the people who owned,
supported and worked in the bustling
resort industry lived

Washington Street

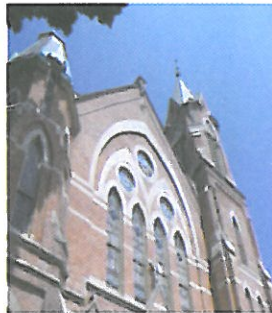
1. 28 Washington St. Bethesda Episcopal Church



Built in 1842, and designed by famous New York City architect Richard Upjohn, this was one of the first Gothic Revival churches built in America. The tower houses a peal set of Meneely bells. Above the front door are three stained-glass panels designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany and bestowed to the church by Spencer and Katrina Trask of Yaddo who were active members of the congregation.

2. 25 Washington Street Universal Preservation Hall

Built in 1871, designed by Elbridge Boyden, is one of the earliest and finest examples of High Victorian Gothic churches in America. Originally constructed for the United Methodist Church to host their annual regional meeting, the 1200 seat hall has hosted such luminaries as William Jennings Bryan, Henry Ward Beecher, Frederick Douglas, and President William Howard Taft. The bell tower was once the tallest structure in the City and houses the 3,000 lb. Meneely bell originally made for Town Hall. As an official project of the Federal Government's "Save America's Treasures," this site is being transformed into a community performing arts venue.



3. 45 Washington Street First Baptist Church



Built in 1855, this Greek Revival church was built on land set aside by Gideon Putnam where the town's first "old house of worship" had been in 1822. The original bell remains in its prominent bell tower.

Franklin Square

4. 1 Franklin Square Augustus Bockes House



Built in 1834, this yellow limestone Greek Revival has a columned façade and is balanced by wings on each side. Home of Augustus Bockes, a State Supreme Court Justice.

5. 2 Franklin Square George Harvey House



1870 French Renaissance. The gallery and veranda like porches are brought together by horizontal belt courses and moldings which are classic of a southern plantation. A large scale addition was added to the south between 1900 -1901 for a medical institute. From 1894-1918, Sarah McEwen operated a boarding house called the Adirondack Lodge.

6. 3 Franklin Square James Marvin House

1836 Greek Revival noted for its square pillars, asymmetrical doorway and full story windows. House of James Marvin, founder of the Bank of Saratoga Springs with his brother, Thomas who resided at 4 Franklin Square. James Marvin also served as the Director of the Saratoga and Schenectady Railroad.

7. 5 Franklin Square Clement/Olmstead House



Built in the 1840s by Joel Clement, Gideon Putnam's son-in-law. Upon Mr. Clement's death, his daughter, Caroline Olmstead moved in. When a fire destroyed the second floor, the home was refurbished as a one level.

8. 6 Franklin Square Hotel Carlsbad

Built in 1840, and renovated in 1870 and 1890 to its current Colonial Revival style. Opened as the Hotel Carlsbad and in 1919, as the Hotel Russell.



9. 4 Franklin Square Thomas Marvin House

Built c. 1832, reminiscent of the White House with its stately pillars in the Greek Revival Style, a popular standard design of the period. Built by Thomas Jefferson Marvin, attorney, judge and owner of the United States Hotel. Later owned by Congressman William Sackett, a member of Congress from 1843-1853, where he was a leader in the fight against slavery.



Franklin Street

10. 63 Franklin Street Bennett House

1830 Greek Revival home of William Bennett, owner of the American Hotel.

11. 59 Franklin Street Stover House

1832 Greek Revival owned by Rev. Ensign Stover, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The design is emblematic of the early period of wealth and prosperity prior to the Civil War.

12. 52 Franklin Street Waring House

Built in the 1890s and a good example of late Victorian design, the house features a clapboard exterior, slate roof and stone foundation.

13. 47 Franklin Street Hartwell House

This 1820 Federal style farmhouse is one of the oldest homes in the city. In 1883 it was the home of harness maker Seymour Hartwell.

14. 36 Franklin Street

Built c. 1815, this Federal style house is believed to be the oldest surviving house in the City. The front gable and Gothic details were added in 1845 and the front porch was added in the 1870's.



Grand Avenue & Beyond

15. 117 Grand Avenue Adirondack Railway Depot

Built in 1884 and designed by architect Thomas C. Durant, this Victorian has Gothic details in the steeply pitched roof. Built for the Saratoga & Schenectady Railroad, the intention was to build a railroad line from Saratoga Springs to Sacketts Harbor, but construction was only completed as far as North Creek. The tracks ran along the right side of the building. Named to the National Historic Register in 1973, the building was home to the Saratoga Preservation Foundation for three decades.



16. Putnam Burial Ground

One of the oldest in the city. Gideon Putnam was the first person buried at this site in 1812 shortly after having built it. Thirty-four members of the Putnam family are buried in its walled enclosure. From 1820 to the mid 1840's, this site served as the town's main burial site.



17. The Beekman Street Art District

Once part of the close-knit working class "Dublin" neighborhood, this three block stretch of period homes and buildings has been revitalized into a hub of cultural activity featuring art galleries, artist studios, restaurants and specialty shops.