

Neighborhood Timeline



Early Carton Ave. foundry



Ephraim Hart House



Ebenezer Baptist church, organized 1830; erected 1836 on Columbia south side, between Broadway and Cornelia Sts.

Baptist Church 1836 Columbia St.



General Lafayette

- 1798** Rev. Timothy Dwight, president of Yale College, touring through the Mohawk Valley described Old Fort Schuyler as “a pretty village containing 50 houses”.
- c.1815** Ephraim Hart a merchant, iron manufacturer, director of the Bank of Utica, Erie Canal commissioner, and Hamilton College trustee built a large brick Federal style home on Lafayette St. He established the Utica Foundry in 1822 on site of the current police station parking lot. Other residences, churches, and small hotels were built during early 1800s in the Federal and Greek revival styles popular in the new nation at the time.

1816 Liberty Street is laid out at edge of village

1823 One of Utica’s first industries- Alfred Munson opened a small shop for the manufacture of millstones and mill equipment at Hotel & Liberty Sts. In 1855 it relocated to the west side of Broadway between the Erie Canal & Lafayette St.

1825 Erie Canal opened. Utica’s first industries began to cluster on the banks of the Erie Canal which passed just to the north of the area- including various foundries, lumberyards, coal yards, machine shops, and horticultural nurseries. The canal was crossed by means of foot bridges at Cornelia and Broadway Sts. and a vehicular bridge at Washington St.

Lafayette St., previously named Rome St., was renamed in honor of General Marquis de Lafayette whose carriage rolled down this though fare in 1825 traveling from a canal boat landing in Whitesboro to a luncheon held at the Bagg’s Hotel in the General’s honor. Lafayette was touring the newly opened engineering marvel.

1831 Alexis de Tocqueville (author of On Democracy in America) passed through Utica during his visit to the US to study prisons. He commented on the pleasant appearance of the village, its fine shops and residences- noteworthy praise coming from a French noble man used to traveling in the aristocratic circles of Paris.



Alexis de Tocqueville



Evidence of this once elegant residential enclave can be seen in vintage photos and is still visible at 440-444 Lafayette St.- the only three townhouses remaining from a cohesive residential block that existed from the early 1800s to the 1960s.

Vintage Lafayette Street views

440-444 Lafayette St. - extant

1832 J.D. Edwards opened Utica Floor Oilcloth Factory on Cornelia St between Columbia & Cooper St. This business appears on an 1839 map

1834 Chenango canal opened, crossed by vehicular bridges at Columbia & Lafayette Sts. State St. dead-ended north end at a large turning basin where the Erie and Chenango Canals connected

1837 Utica & Schenectady Railroad opened. The terminal was near Bagg’s Square

1839 Utica & Syracuse Railroad opened. Neighborhood businesses along the Erie Canal included Utica Foundry (Hart & Pond) and Munson & Co. millstone manufacturers. The Fayette House hotel was located at the northeast corner of Lafayette and State Sts.



Utica map- 1839

1848 After a period of economic stagnation new steam knitting mills powered by Pennsylvania coal supplied via the adjacent Chenango canal opened near the neighborhood. German immigrants fleeing the Revolution of 1848 found ready employment in the Globe Woolen Mills, Utica Steam Cotton Mills, and Utica Steam Woolen Mills located within the surrounding blocks.