

Neighborhood Timeline

highest and best use of the buildings. Let's build upon the rich and fruitful successes realized in Bagg's Square. Furthermore, these buildings would remain on the tax rolls.

- Given that this section of the city was once part of Utica's industrial past, there is a potential for what could be described as a 19th century "brownfield" lurking beneath the existing structures that would need to be remediated, adding significantly to the ultimate project cost. Remember, the former Erie Canal was used as a dumping ground after it was abandoned.
- Among the most significant issues of concern to relocation of the consolidated hospitals into one downtown site is the proximity of this site to the CSX mainline railroad tracks (within approximately 1500 feet). Given the increased shipment of potentially hazardous freight on the rail lines, not the least of which includes crude oil trains, if it were necessary to evacuate a section of the city due to a derailment, the triage center would be the hospital; however, the hospital the hospital could potentially be within the evacuation zone, creating a potential compound disaster.
- What few plans and concepts that have been shared for a downtown hospital location are reminiscent of Robert Moses in size and scale, a huge, iconic structure surrounded by a sea of parking. This would be the antithesis of what makes Utica unique.
- The St. Luke's site is not entirely perfect, but it is certainly far more suitable for this type of plan. It is already a campus. It is adjacent to Utica College that has an established medical curricula that could be expanded. It has room for expansion. It is easily accessible from Route 8/12 and sufficiently distant from the CSX railroad mainline. A new structure could be built in the parking areas adjacent to the existing hospital, the existing hospital could then be demolished (if that is what must happen) and parking structures could be added in the available space. Demolition would be relatively minimal compared to the downtown alternative.

Ultimately, there is a real need for public input and discussion on this process as it potentially affects all of us. We can all "agree to disagree," but we will all have to live with the end results for a long time to come, and everyone needs to be heard on an issue of the importance and significance of this one.



Terracotta cornice c. 1880- 430 Columbia St.

Sources:

- Building Structure Inventories-various authors -Division for Historic Preservation NYS Parks & Recreation, 1978.
- Clark, T. Wood. Utica for a Century and a Half. Utica, NY: The Widtman Press, 1952.
- Illustrated Utica. 1890.
- Klossner, Joan. Utica Streets; A Stroll into History. Utica, NY: Oneida County Historical Society.
- Older, Smaller, Better- Measuring how the character of buildings and blocks influences urban vitality. National Trust for Historic Preservation- Preservation Green Lab study, 2014. www.preservationnation.org/greenlab
- Oneida County Historical Society
- Truett, Brett- current neighborhood photos
- Utica Atlas- 1896
- Utica City Directories 1897, 1907, 1925
- Utica Maps- 1806, 1835, 1839
- Utica Observer Dispatch Archives
- Utica Sanborn Maps- 1908

#NoHospitalDowntown

**We're working to save the remaining buildings
and this neighborhood. Please join us on Facebook or
obtain more information at:**

www.NoHospitalDowntown.com