

Welcome to Historic Lewiston

Summer
2008

8. Red Brick School, 1901: After a fire, it was rebuilt in 1905. Became the Lewiston Village Hall in 1973. Anthony Soluri, our current Mayor Richard Soluri's father, constructed the gymnasium when it was added in 1927.

9. The Silo, pre-1906: Used to supply coal for several passenger steamships. 10-25,000 people per day came through Lewiston before automobiles became popular. Now a restaurant.

10. Originally known as the Angler's Retreat Hotel, 1871: This building has survived 3 massive ice jams that reached the height of the first floor. Presently a restaurant and Jet Boat Tours.

11. Trafford Mansion, 1840: Built by James Trafford, Maryann Cornell Trafford and her father, Nelson Cornell. Cornell, followed by his son, Hiram, was an enterprising merchant, hotel keeper and owner of one of the stage coach lines.

12. Fairbanks Mansion, 1815: Joshua Fairbanks was Benjamin Barton's partner and built the Frontier House with him.

7. Barton Hill, 1815: One of the first homes built after the Burning of Lewiston in 1813. Maj. Benjamin Barton was a prominent citizen and made his fortune controlling the flow of goods on the Portage around Niagara Falls.

6. Frontier House, 1824: Lewiston's premiere landmark. At one time the finest hotel in the U.S., west of Albany.

5. The Little Yellow House, 1816: One of the oldest standing structures in Lewiston.

4. 500 Center St., 1845: Built in 1845 by Dr. Edward Smith, son of Dr. Willard Smith. Smith descendants still live in the Village. Dr. H. Selzer used the building for his home/office until his death in 1995. The original stage coach carriage steps are still in front. Today, it is a bank.

3. Hennepin Hall, 1834: Built by Sherbourne Piper, Esq., who was a teacher at the Lewiston Academy and the only attorney at the time. Piper and his wife Martha Godwin built the grand home after arriving from Dartmouth College in NH. Piper later became a state senator. Presently it is a church rectory.

2. Opera Hall., 1832: Built by Joseph Hewitt. The social center for Lewiston in the 1800's. The Colonial Ball, a costume affair, was an annual event attended by prominent citizens. Owned by the International Order of Odd Fellows and said to be inhabited by friendly ghosts.

1. 810 Center St., 1818: Built by Jacob Townsend, an early citizen who was a shipper of salt, furs and pork. Timbers in the primary structure are mortised and pinned, and the absence of nails is remarkable.

22. The First Presbyterian Church, 1830: This church played a prominent role in the Underground Railroad and a sculpture in front of the church commemorates the site. Josiah Tryon, the Underground Railroad "station master" was deacon and Elder in the church in the mid-1800's the church's cellar was used as a slave hideaway. The church is prominently mentioned in the book Freedom Crossing. A monument will be unveiling in Lewiston in 2009 honoring Josiah Tryon and his secret cause to help the fugitive slaves.

22. Known as The First and Last Chance Saloon, 1820: 755 Center St. Built by Bates Cooke. The son of Lemuel, Bates was a lawyer, a U.S. congressman and later, the New York State Comptroller. Replacing the 1813 burned wood frame dwelling, it later became a tavern after Cooke's death in 1841. In 1954 it was restored as an art gallery. It is a private business today.

21. Known as The Kelsey Tavern, 1820: 625 Center St. Built by Thomas Kelsey. This stately structure hosted Revolutionary War hero, French General Marquis LaFayette on his tour of the region. Lafayette was also reunited with his Indian guide, Nicholas Cusick here. Many gala festivities were held here. Presently it serves as a real estate office.

20. 605 Center Street, 1870: Built in 1870 by William Parkinson to be used as a manse for the First Presbyterian Church. It was once surrounded by large elm trees until the 1950s blight. It is a private residence today. A porch was added in 2005.

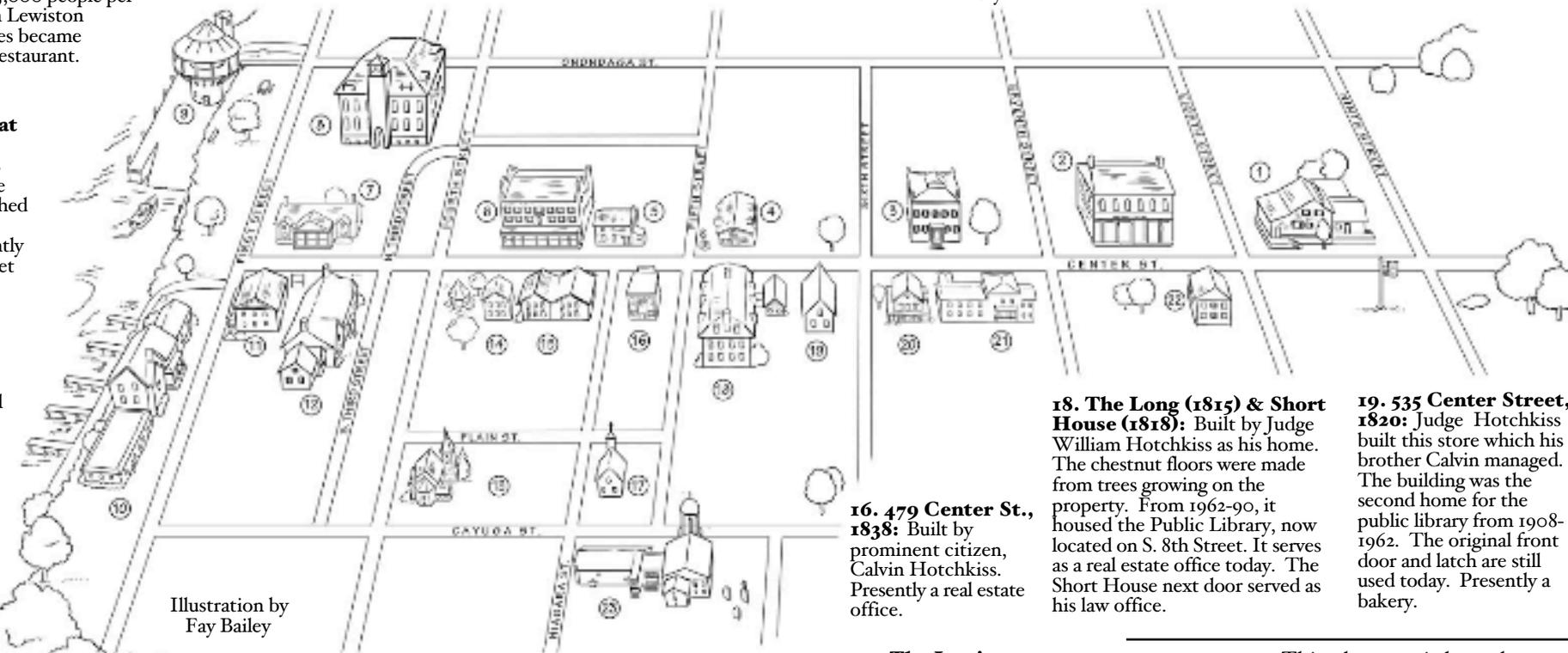


Illustration by
Fay Bailey

13. Originally St. Peter's Church, 1901. Replaced the original wood church and was constructed by Fr. Henry Dolan and his parishioners by their own labor. Stone was cut at the Hotchkiss quarry at the end of 4th St. and brought to the site. Presently a theater.

14. 413 Center St., 1854: Built by Moses and Abraham Bairsto, local businessmen. Many remember it as the Red & White grocery store. Presently an insurance office.

15. Apple Granny, 1869: Built by John Fleming as a general store. Was Helms Market for many years. Presently a restaurant owned by John Roberts.

17. The Lewiston Museum, 1835: Originally an Episcopal church that was active in the Underground Railroad to help escaping slaves. Owned by the Historical Association of Lewiston.

18. The Long (1815) & Short House (1818): Built by Judge William Hotchkiss as his home. The chestnut floors were made from trees growing on the property. From 1962-90, it housed the Public Library, now located on S. 8th Street. It serves as a real estate office today. The Short House next door served as his law office.

19. 535 Center Street, 1820: Judge Hotchkiss built this store which his brother Calvin managed. The building was the second home for the public library from 1908-1962. The original front door and latch are still used today. Presently a bakery.

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**Jason Marshall, DDS
Lewiston Family Dental**

850 Center Street, Lewiston, NY 14092
(right across the street from historic Academy Park)

716-754-4810

Welcome to Lewiston, New York www.HistoricLewiston.org

The Historical Association of Lewiston hopes you enjoy your visit to our historic and quaint village. Mark your calendar for our next spectacular Historic Home Tour on Dec. 6 & 7, 2008. To get the latest news and monthly program notes, join our free email list by sending an email to: join@HistoricLewiston.org You can also see and download our past placemats at our website: HistoricLewiston.org Phone: 716-754-4214

Historic Lewiston placemats written and designed by Historic Association volunteer, Lee Simonson

