

South Street • Auburn Historic

Walking

Tour

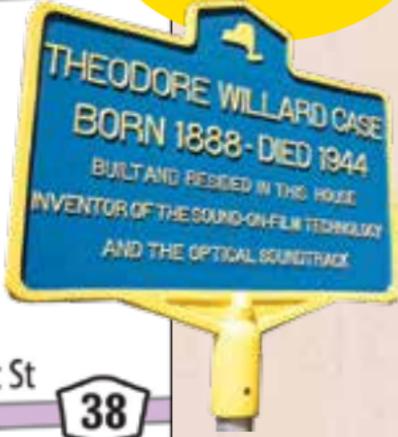


*“Experience History” while
strolling along this beautiful street.*





Look for
Historic Markers
Along the Way!





Brief History of Auburn

Formerly Iroquois Nation territory, Auburn was settled in 1793, during the post-Revolutionary period of expansion into western New York, by John Hardenbergh, a veteran of the American Revolution. The community grew up around Hardenbergh's gristmill and sawmill and was originally known as Hardenbergh's Corners. The settlement was renamed Auburn in 1805 when it became the county seat. It incorporated as a village in 1815, and was chartered as a city in 1848. Auburn was only a few miles from the Erie Canal, which opened in 1825, allowing local factories to inexpensively ship goods north or south. In 1871, the Southern Central Railroad completed a line primarily to carry coal from Athens, Pennsylvania, through Auburn to the wharves on Lake Ontario at Fair Haven.

Factories using hydropower sprang up along the Owasco River, which flows through the City, leading to an influx of immigrant workers for the mills. The investors and owners of these thriving mills first lived on Genesee Street, but eventually built grand homes along South Street.

The South Street Area Historic District, laid out in 1795 and initially called Meridian Street, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991 and contains 164 resource structures dating from c.1800. It is about one mile long and features architectural styles ranging from Greek Revival to Early Republic to Victorian and Stick-Style.





A **2 South Street**
The Phoenix Building

The Phoenix Building was built in 1871 in the Second Empire/Renaissance Revival style as Auburn Savings Bank by Horatio White of Syracuse. After 1965, a “modern” granite façade and re-orientation of entrances occurred. The bank closed in the 1980’s and was renamed The Phoenix Building in 1990.

B **6 South Street**
The Swaby Building

The Swaby Building has been a Blacksmith shop, apartments, The International School of Beauty, Weddigen’s Restaurant, and Andrews Grocery. Amelia Swaby, widow of Dr. William Swaby of Seneca Falls, bought the lot in 1912 after a fire destroyed the earlier building and built the current structure on the site.

C **16 South Street**
Auburn Schine Theater

This Art Deco theater, designed by Austrian-born John Ebersson, who specialized in theaters, opened on September 13, 1938 and is decorated with painted stars and planets on the walls, starlight fixtures on the ceiling, and sleek curves and zigzag lines in the stairways. The opening film, “Four’s A Crowd”, starred Errol Flynn and Olivia DeHaviland. The theater is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

D **24 South Street**
Memorial City Hall

This Colonial Revival office building was a gift to the City in 1930 by siblings, Helen Osborne and Emily Osborne Harris in memory of their father, D. M. Osborne, who served three terms as Mayor of Auburn. The Boston architectural firm of Coolidge, Shepley, Bullfinch and Abbott designed the three-story brick building with a classic Ionic portico and corner Ionic pilasters.

E **40 & 42 South Street**

Built in 1871 by H. J. Sartwell, owner of Sartwell and Hollister, Dry Goods, this duplex is in the Italianate Style with 3 stories and 3 bays. The front porch was added later.



F **48 South Street**
Brew Funeral Home

Built in 1800 by Joshua Burt as a 2 ½ story home in the Federal Style, this home has seen many changes. From 1881-1892, Paul C. Woodruff, attorney and owner of Auburn Button Works, modified the simple home with Stick Style ornamentation, a cast iron fence, a turret, and wooden shingles in contrast to the brick body of the house.

G **52 South Street**

Originally a 2 ½ story, five-bay Federal/Greek Revival home with Colonial Revival touches, Doric posts on the portico and a triangle pediment, this home was constructed in 1805 for Hackaliah Burt, an early resident of Auburn.

H **9 – 15 Logan Street**
Factory Complex

Constructed between 1857-1882 with Italianate characteristics including arched cornices, long slender windows and a flat roof, the quadrangle complex has housed the Logan Silk Mills, Auburn Button Factory, Wegman Piano Company and Logan Street Dairy. The fabric for Grover Cleveland's wife's 1892 inaugural gown that now hangs in the Smithsonian was woven in the factory. Today, the complex is home to private apartments.



I **64 & 66 South Street**
Beardsley Architects + Engineers

Built in 1830 by Amasa Curtis, these “twin” homes are in the Federal/Greek Revival Style and were originally 2 stories and 3 bays.

J **68 South Street**

Designed in 1820 in the Greek Revival Style by John I. Hagaman, a prominent local architect, as his own home. Wings were added in the mid-1800's.

K**70 South Street**

This home was built in 1885 in the Italianate Style by John Beardsley for his daughter, Caroline, who lived there until 1904. Look for brackets supporting the wide overhanging eaves.

**L****76 South Street**

Constructed in the 1830's outside the City limits on undeveloped farmland, this is one of the earliest homes on South Street. This 2 story, three-bay home was originally built in the simple Federal/Greek Revival Style. Today, large Ionic pilasters accentuate the bays and supporting decorative arches and the porch on the south side has dentils, simple square posts and turned balustrades. Stucco was added to the exterior in the early 1930's.

M**86 South Street**

This home was designed and built in 1872 at a cost of \$2,750 for Edwin D. Metcalf, Founder and President of Columbian Rope and Treasurer of D.M. Osborne, Co. From 1940-1951, it served as the site of The Logan School, a private day school. Today, there are 8 apartments. The porte cochere on the right is balanced by a porch with a spool & spindle baluster and Doric columns. High above is a Corbeled cap chimney. The façade of the second story features stained glass transom lights in an angled bay which has an arched hood over it and Doric pilasters accent the bays.

N**102 South Street
The Beardsley Home**

Commissioned in 1879 by Williams P. Beardsley, Assistant Treasurer of the Oswego Starch Co., the home is an asymmetrically massed, two and one-half story house in the Queen Anne/Stick Style. The Beardsley family owned the home until 1966.

O**108 South Street
The Case Mansion**

This 65-room mansion called "The Chimneys" built between 1929-1931 for Theodore Case, inventor of sound on film, was designed by Coolidge, Shepley, Bullfinch and Abbott at a cost of \$542,000. An additional \$500,000 was spent on lavish avant-garde furnishings. Eclectic architectural elements include a mansard roof, piazzas, porte-cochere, formal gardens and a combination of Gothic, Renaissance, Georgian, Tudor Revival, Jacobean, Empire, Elizabethan and Oriental Styles.



P **130 South Street**
John H. Osborne Home

The current home on this property was designed in 1904 by Syracuse architect, Gordon A. Wright, and built for John H. Osborne, secretary of D.M. Osborne Company, once the largest manufacturer of agricultural equipment in the world. Designed to be completely fire-proof using concrete, steel, marble and glass, the walls are 20 inches thick and made of Canandaigua brick.

Q **180 South Street**
The Harriet Tubman Home

Continue down South Street and visit the property where Harriet Tubman, the famous conductor on the Underground Railroad, lived and built a home for the aged.

R **33 South Street**
Seward House Museum

Built between 1816-1817, this historic home was the first brick home in Auburn and originally a 34 x 40 Federal Style house built by Judge Elijah Miller. It became a museum in 1955 and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. Additions over the years include the carriage house and stable in 1850 and a 30-room expansion in 1870. The Seward House Museum was once the home of William H. Seward, co-founder of the Republican Party, Secretary of State to Presidents Lincoln and Johnson and a leading figure in the purchase of Alaska (Seward's Folly).

S **63 & 65 South Street**
Queen's and King's Court

Queen's Court (#63), home of Frederick and Flora Ward Fay, was built in 1913. The home had 19 fireplaces, marble pavement, family and separate freight elevators, gas lights in all rooms, 7 baths, inter-room telephones, an auxiliary heating plant, walk-in cooler, and a matching garage with steam heat, a full bath, washing sinks, indoor gasoline pumps, electric lights and bays for four touring cars. It now houses 20 apartments. Exterior details include a full pediment gable with a round gable window surrounded with floral festoons and corners accented by stone quoins.

King's Court (#65), built in 1926-30 specifically as a location for 40 apartments and on the site of Mrs. Fay's lawns and gardens, is a 3 story, 7 bay Colonial/Georgian Revival building. It was also equipped with an elevator and served as a respectable residence for many young ladies employed as secretaries in the growing businesses in downtown Auburn.

T **67 South Street**
1840 Dulles Inn

The 1865 City Census states that current Romanesque Revival Style home with Craftsman touches and a porte-cochere on the north side was worth \$7,000 and owned by Dr. Frederick Humphries, a physician and publisher of the Journal of Specific Homeopathy. In 1931 the home was sold to the People of New York State for \$25,000 as a residence for the superintendent of Auburn Correctional Facility. It is now, once again privately owned.

U **85 South Street**
Westminster Manor Victorian House

Sister to 88 South Street and designed by Green & Wicks, the four-story Queen Anne/Shevian Style home was built for the Gorton W. Allen family. The first floor features broad, tripartite arched windows while there are decorative terra-cotta panels on the gable windows on the second floor. Today it offers 8 senior apartments associated with Westminster Manor.

V **91 South Street**
Roselawn

Built around 1849, Roselawn is one of few remaining intact estates in the city. The main building is a 5-bay, two-and-a-half story frame house with a basic L-shape and Italianate detail. Other structures on the property include a barn, three cape cod style cottages (1939-41), a contemporary split-level home (1942), a caretaker's 2-story Vernacular Gothic Style cottage (1851), coachman's quarters (1882) and carriage barn.

Roselawn was converted into apartments in 1939 by then owner Charles Ross who also removed a rear wing and replaced it with current 2-story wing. Additional alterations were completed in 1940 and, in 1955, the original tin roof was replaced by double lap roofing along with the removal of wooden shutters.

W **99 South Street**
The Osborne Library

A small brick building of 2,800 sq. feet located behind the Auburn United Methodist Church is all that remains of a much larger Second Empire-style mansion originally built in 1872 by industrialist, D. M. Osborne and his wife, Eliza Wright Osborne. Constructed entirely of brick and cement to be fireproof, the interior is one huge library room with a massive fireplace, small office, and an extension, which was the passageway to the mansion.



X 115 South Street The T. M. Osborne Home

Between 1882-1886, this Colonial Revival home was built for Thomas Mott Osborne by Julius Schweinfurth, a prominent Auburn architect.

The home is a classic Colonial Revival with five bays, a recessed doorway, second story Palladian window, hipped roof and three dormers. For many years, the home served as offices for The American Red Cross, Boy Scouts, United Fund/Way; Cerebral Palsy Fund and other community agencies.

Y 119 South Street The Hislop Home

William B. Hislop, Scottish born owner of Hislop & Co. Dry Goods, which operated until 1973 in Downtown Auburn, built this dwelling in 1881. It remained in the family until 1973 when it was turned into apartments. With 27 rooms and 6 bathrooms, the Queen Anne home has a hipped roof with intersecting gables, decorative verge boards, a second story balcony and an octagonal tower.

Resources:

Auburn Bicentennial Souvenir Celebration Booklet
Cayuga County Historian's office
Community Preservation Committee Walking Tours

Vocabulary Terms

Greek Revival – reflecting the Greek idea of Democracy this style dominated for the first half of the 1800's with balanced window layout, columns, porticos

Bracket – scroll-shaped support for overhanging eaves

Cornice – molding along the roofline

Eaves – overhanging roof line

Gable – triangular upper wall area beneath a pitched roof

Lintels – horizontal beams topping doors or windows

Portico – a large porch supported by columns

Quoins – accents at the corners of a house

Porte-cochere – a covered drive area to unload protected from a carriage

Paladin window – rounded arched window flanked by two narrower rectangular section windows.

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Did you know...?

The first commercially successful system of sound film was invented in 1923, in the **Case Research Lab**, Auburn.

The **Insanity Plea** was first used as a defense in a trial case represented by **William H. Seward** in Auburn.

The **first electric chair** and the first successful electrocution took place at Auburn Correctional Facility. Visit the Cayuga Museum's Prison Exhibit to learn more.

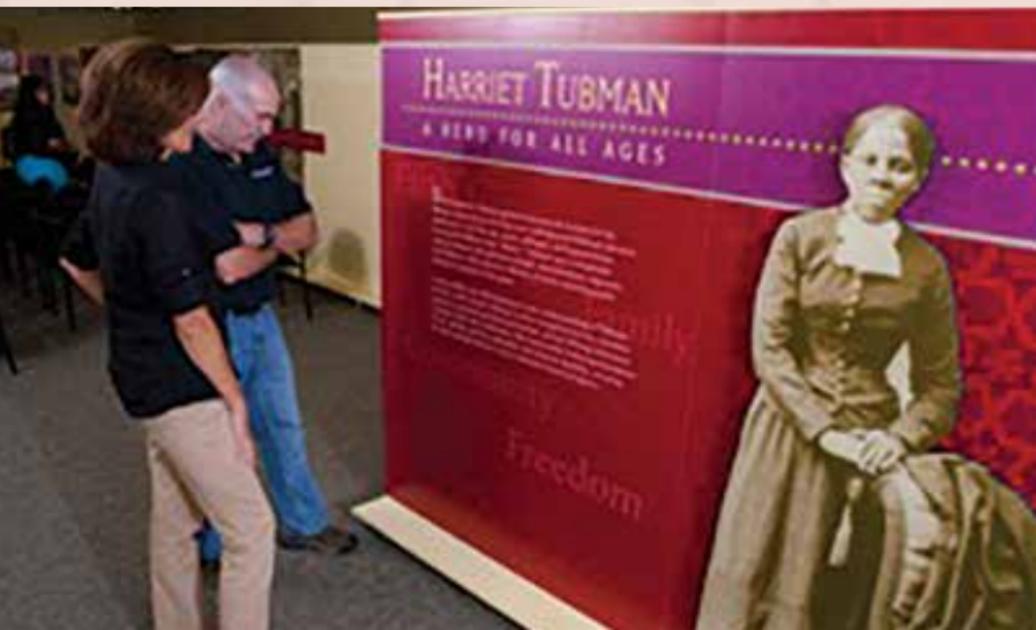
Auburn Correctional Facility was originally constructed in 1816 and is the **oldest continuously operating maximum-security prison** in North America.

The New York City firm of Carrere and Hastings, designers of the New York Public Library, designed the **Seymour Public Library** in Auburn.

The Willard Memorial Chapel in Auburn, designed by **Louis C. Tiffany** is one of the few complete unaltered Tiffany chapels known to exist.

Abner Doubleday, baseball's legendary founder spent much of his life in Auburn. Auburn's minor league baseball team, the Auburn Doubledays is named in his honor.

After the Civil War, **Harriet Tubman** settled in Auburn, having completed her heroic work on the Underground Railroad. Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn is Tubman's final resting place.





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Doggie rules & etiquette

For the safety and enjoyment of everyone, follow these simple rules and guidelines:

- The City of Auburn has a Restraint (Leash) Law - A dog must be controlled by a leash having a maximum length of six feet when in a public area.
- Your dog must have a valid license and current rabies shot.
- Always clean up after your dog!

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Photo of "Phobe" by Maureen McEvers



TOURCAYUGA.COM

Cayuga County Office of Tourism
131 Genesee Street, Auburn, NY 13021-1658
(800) 499-9615 / (315) 255-1658
e-mail: info@tourcayuga.com

TourCayuga.com

Photography: Kristian Reynolds