



The Clinton House after the 1872 renovation in the Second Empire style. (From the Henry Head Collection.)

meetings, and was noted for its painted stage curtain and the allegorical paintings on the ceiling. Clinton Block was built by the same men who built the Clinton House next door—Jeremiah Beebe, Henry Ackley, and Henry Hibbard. In fact, the building was set back on its lot so that the view from the Clinton House would not be obstructed.

Clinton House (1828–1830). 116 N. Cayuga. Built in the monumental Greek Revival style, the Clinton House was hailed as the finest hotel west of the Hudson River. Simeon DeWitt often lived in the hotel when he visited Ithaca, and in fact he died there. The building survived several fires, and conversion to the Second Empire style (complete with mansard roof) for 25 years, but it ended its hotel days in 1973. In that year Historic Ithaca purchased the Clinton House and began a complete renovation, including the addition

of an outside elevator and stair tower on the Seneca Street side. The building now houses the DeWitt Historical Society of Tompkins County (founded in 1863) on the first floor, a retail business and the offices and archives of Historic Ithaca and Tompkins County (founded 1966) in the basement, and numerous offices upstairs.

A parade of architects have worked on this building: Ira Tillotson probably designed the original structure, William Henry Miller did the Second Empire alteration in 1872, and Clinton Vivian designed the Colonial Revival remodeling in 1901. The most impressive exterior feature is, of course, the three-story portico with six massive Ionic columns. Also noteworthy are the Palladian window in the pediment, the roof balustrade, and the stained-glass windows. Inside, the building contains handsome oak woodwork and plasterwork throughout. At the historical society (open 12:30 to 5:00 Tuesday through Saturday), you'll find publications, changing exhibits, a library and archives, and a 1948 mural of Ithaca by Cornell professor James O. Mahoney, in the former hotel bar known as the Mural Lounge.

109–111 N. Cayuga (between 1840 and 1850). One of the older commercial buildings downtown, this Greek Revival structure has housed a hotel or restaurant since 1890. A saloon occupied the premises in 1866 and the Union Hotel (later called the Victoria Hotel) came sometime after. Note the frieze windows covered by cast-iron grills, as in the Clinton Block opposite.

Masonic Temple (1926). 115 N. Cayuga. This Egyptian Revival structure replaced the elegant Second Empire home and office of George W. Hoysradt, an early Ithaca dentist who practiced for over 50 years. The temple was designed by Gibb and Waltz. The only other Egyptian Revival building in Ithaca appears to be the old Sphinx Head Society building, 900 Stewart Avenue (now a private home).

109 E. Seneca (c. 1894). This attractive brick Queen Anne house is very similar to houses at 213 N. Aurora and 300 W. State. Dr. Elma Griggs lived here from 1894 to 1922. She moved to Ithaca in 1889 and took over Dr. Albina Hunter's practice. Note the stained-glass windows and the elaborate woodwork.

111 E. Seneca (probably before 1851). Very little is known about this charming small Greek Revival house, which now contains an office. The first map to show the building in its present location is one from 1872. Maps done in 1851 and 1866 show a building that is

closer to the street. Perhaps the house was moved back to create a larger yard, or perhaps the earlier house was torn down and this one moved here.

Seneca Building (1928). 121 E. Seneca. The builder of this tall Neo-Georgian structure had intended to build an exact duplicate (although a mirror image) next door that could share the elevator and other features, which accounts for the unusual narrowness of the building. It was designed by J. Lakin Baldrige and has small wrought-iron balconies on the front, a fanlight over the main door, and a variety of window styles. The new section was designed by Anton J. Egner and Associates and built in 1979.

The presence of four Neo-Georgian buildings downtown (the others are the new courthouse, the jail, and the Cayuga Apartments, all designed by J. Lakin Baldrige) reflects the popularity of this style in the 1930s, a popularity due in part to the successful restoration of Colonial Williamsburg.

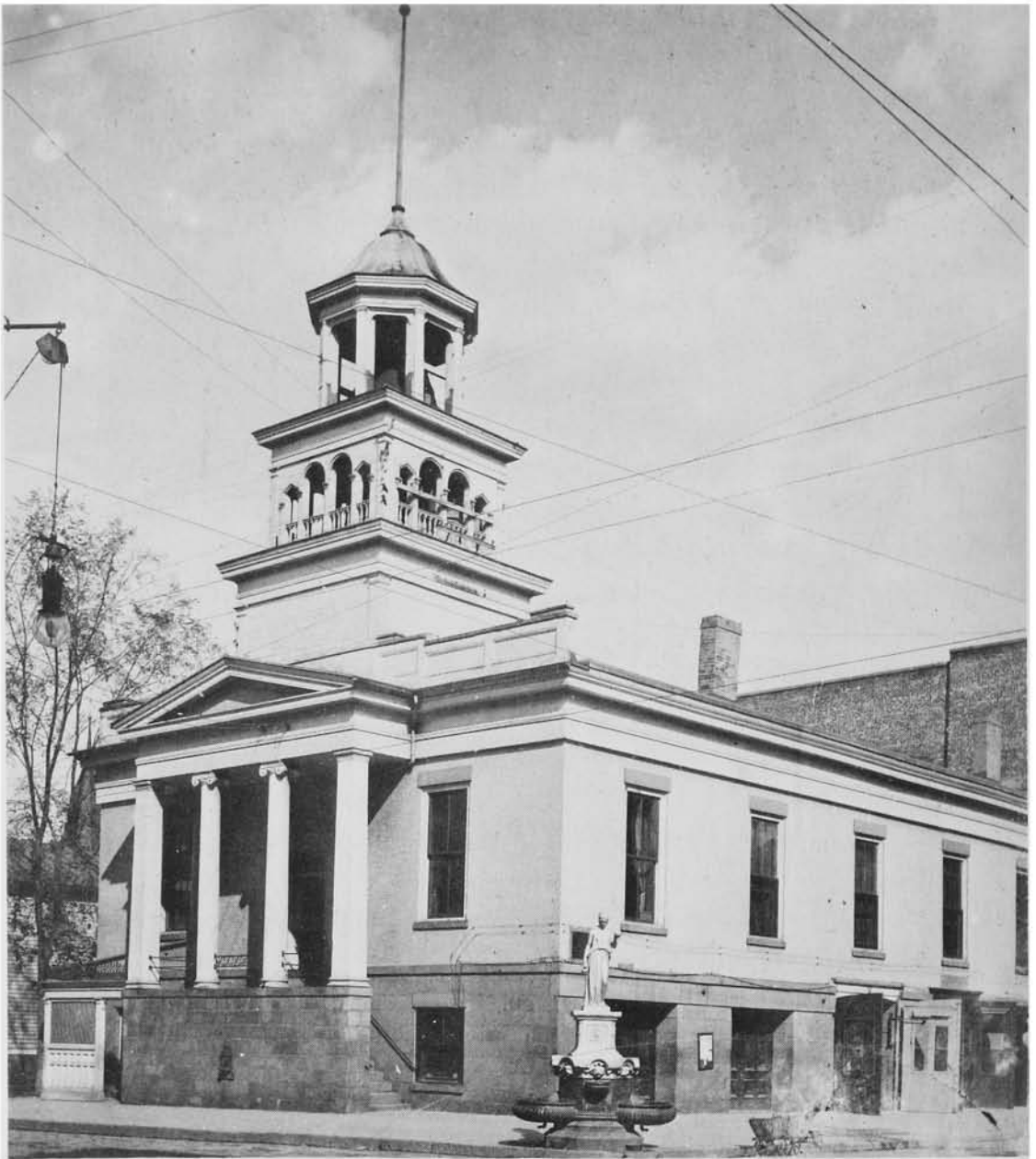
Town Hall (1881). 126 E. Seneca. Designed by A. B. Wood for the widow of William Coryell, this Queen Anne house later served as medical and insurance offices. The Town of Ithaca bought it in 1974. It has a two-story round bay in front and elaborate woodwork at all three gable ends, as well as tall narrow windows, especially on the sides.

Site of the Old City Hall (1844). Northeast corner of Seneca and Tioga. Torn down in 1965 as the first major action of the city's urban renewal program, this brick Greek Revival building had served the community for well over a century, first as Village Hall and then as City Hall after Ithaca became a city in 1888. Its demolition spurred the formation of Historic Ithaca, the local preservation group. Part of the Seneca Street parking garage now occupies the site.

In 1896 the Women's Christian Temperance Union erected Ithaca's first public drinking fountain on this corner. The fountain, surmounted by a statue of Hebe, the goddess of youth, was seen as an important victory in the battle against alcoholism and battered wives because it provided an alternative to taverns and saloons.

211–213 E. Seneca (before 1851). This modest frame structure is one of the oldest buildings in the business district. (One source claims it was built in 1815.) A Colonial Revival facade has been added.

Site of the Tompkins House (c. 1806). Northwest corner of Aurora and Seneca. Jacob Vrooman built an inn here around 1806 and called



City Hall (Village Hall), with the fountain of Hebe in front, around 1900.

it the Ithaca Hotel. In 1809, however, he changed the name to honor Daniel Tompkins, governor of New York and later vice president of the United States under James Monroe. (Luther Gere then took the name Ithaca Hotel for the inn he built at Aurora and State.) In 1832 a new hotel, also called the Tompkins House, was built on the site of Vrooman's inn. A one-and-a-half story frame building, it was eventually enlarged into a four-story building. Part of the Seneca Street parking ramp now occupies the site.

Crescent Theater (1916). 215–217 N. Aurora. Ithaca's oldest re-



The Tompkins House around 1900, before it was covered in stucco.

maining movie palace, the Crescent was built when the local film industry was at its height. Designed by Gibb and Waltz, it was converted to a dance hall in 1931, to a gymnasium for Ithaca College in 1946, and finally to a night club in 1976. Comfort Butler's tannery, built before 1817, was the first building on the site. It operated along the north branch of Six Mile Creek, since filled in.

213 N. Aurora (1890). When this Queen Anne house was built, probably by the jeweler Edwin J. Burritt, the lawn stretched to Seneca Street. Richard Warren, a prominent physician, bought the house around 1910, and his family remained here until about 1968, after which the building was converted to offices. Note the stained-glass windows and the elaborate woodwork, especially inside. This house is very similar to houses at 109 E. Seneca and 300 W. State, which suggests that they were built or designed by the same person.

209 N. Aurora (between 1930 and 1933). In the 1870s, Henry Bool opened an art and framing store on East State Street. Soon thereafter he added furniture and other household goods. For many years, Bool's also operated a manufacturing plant in Forest Home. Around 1890 the Bool Company was formed as a cooperative, employee-owned furniture store, and it set up a separate section as a flower shop. During a move at the turn of the century, however, the two shops separated. The furniture company went out of business about

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the time of the Depression, but Bool's Flower Shop continues in business today. It moved to the present spot around 1965.

201–207 N. Aurora (between 1899 and 1904, probably after 1901). In the 1880s the Aurora Hotel (also called the Bentham House) occupied this spot. Note the irregularly spaced windows (probably due to enlargement of the original building) and the plate-glass store-fronts.

The Strand Mural (1978). East Seneca. Designed by Ithaca artist David Finn, this 73 x 58 foot mural on the rear wall of the Strand Theatre took six people five weeks to complete and required 50 gallons of paint.

Eagles Building (1928). 326–328 E. State. Built by the Fraternal Order of Eagles, this structure was renovated in 1968 by its present owner, T. G. Miller's Sons Paper Company, with urban renewal help. It has also housed a speakeasy, city offices, a nightclub, a dance studio, and a police shooting gallery. The Eagles built the



The Eagles Building in the 1960s.

building as a lodge but they apparently also operated a speakeasy here for a few years during Prohibition. The second floor held their reception area and restaurant; it still has an elaborate carved stone fireplace and original paneling. On the third floor at the rear is a two-story ballroom that housed the Unicorn nightclub in the 1970s and now houses a dance studio. The ballroom contains a small stage in the north wall, high arched windows in the east and west walls, oak paneling, and leather seats. An open loggia on the fourth floor has been glassed in to make office space. Around 1942 the city took over the building for nonpayment of taxes. Hickey's Lyceum Music Store occupied part of the first floor in the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1960s the bowling alley in the basement was converted to a police shooting gallery.

Miller's was founded in 1878 as Enz and Miller, a wholesale paper

company that also owned its own paper mill. The company was started on East State Street by Frank J. Enz and Thomas G. Miller, former employees of the Andrus and Church book bindery. A few years later they moved to the Blood Building on North Tioga. Note the eight tall Corinthian pilasters in front, and the large pencil sign in back. The architect was Arthur N. Gibb.

Carey Building (1922). 314–320 E. State. On the first floor is Mayers Smoke Shop, a part of downtown since 1897, when Dora Mayers opened a sidewalk news stand on the corner in front of the old Rothschild's. In 1912 she moved the business indoors to 203 E. State. Ralph C. Smith later moved it one door east. As a result of urban renewal, Mayers moved again, to this site, in 1968. Insurance broker Henry A. Carey built this Tudor/Gothic structure in a style to match the Strand Theatre.

Strand Theatre (1917). 310–312 E. State. Once one of five legitimate theaters in Ithaca, the Strand is the only active one left. Built mainly to house traveling professional groups, but also to serve as a movie house, this Tudor/Gothic theater presented such well-known performers as Helen Hayes, George M. Cohan, Erich von Stroheim, Katherine Cornell, and Dorothy Gish, as well as a host of lesser-known vaudevillians. With the success of movies and television, though, the theatrical circuit declined in popularity, and the Strand became solely a movie house by the 1950s. Closed in 1975, the Strand was purchased in 1977 by two Ithacans, Barbara Wilcox Thuesen and Elaine Treman Downing, who reopened the theater as a nonprofit organization and began renovations. The elegant interior, with its marble stairs, terrazzo floors, and brass railings, has been entirely repainted and is well worth a visit. Probably designed by Edgar Townsley, the Strand became the city's largest theater, claiming 1650 seats (1900 in another source). The exterior is less impressive but does feature shield medallions and comic and tragic heads.

George Cowdry had his driving shed here in the 1880s and 1890s, and a harness maker and a drayman operated here around the turn of the century.

White Building (1916). 306–308 E. State. A skylight and spacious second-floor windows admit light to this former photographic studio. The original owner, L. S. White, served as official photographer for many East Coast universities and operated a large business headquartered in New York City. Note the handsome tile roof and the 1930s decor of Andrews Confectionary Shop (founded here in 1931



The Wanzer Block in 1906, before the White Building and Strand Theatre were built. On the left is the Leonardo Hotel.

and still operated by Mrs. Andrews). Blacksmiths occupied this spot in the last half of the nineteenth century.

Wanzer Block (1905). Corner State and Aurora. This block is actually composed of three buildings that were joined together when the middle and last structure was built in 1905. Note the small balcony on 103 N. Aurora (built c. 1865), which was part of a full balcony originally, and the arched windows on the fourth floor of 304 E. State (built c. 1888). Arthur N. Gibb designed the middle building at 302 E. State. He tied the three buildings together by adding a fourth floor to 103 N. Aurora and extending the cornice on 304 E. State across all three facades. Daniel H. Wanzer's store sold "choice family groceries" at 103 N. Aurora as early as 1872 and by 1891 had expanded to include 304 E. State. His son Elmer had the 1905 work done.

Head's Camera Shop was founded by Henry Head in 1901 and moved here around 1968. Head had come to Ithaca in 1896 and had worked in a photography studio before deciding to open his own business.

Leonardo Hotel (1904). 105–107 N. Aurora. Originally an office for the Postal Telegraph Cable Company, this building was designed



The Bates Block. (Photograph by Carl Koski, 1981.)

by Arthur N. Gibb. It was converted to a hotel by Sam Kunst in 1950 and was later purchased by Sam Leonardo. The torch-like decorations on the top floor may represent Mercury, messenger of the gods, an appropriate symbol for a telegraph company. Adam Cowdry's carriage shop occupied this site in the 1850s.

Contemporary Trends (1969). 117–123 N. Aurora. This handsome building was designed by Levatich and Miller to match the style of the merchandise within. In 1805 Luther Gere built a tavern here, the second one in the city.

Bates Block (1872). 118–124 N. Aurora. Like the Griffin Block, which anchors the other end of the 100 block of North Aurora, this Italianate building was designed by A. B. Dale and has an elaborately decorated cast-iron facade, corbeled brackets, and brick window hoods. Cast-iron facades became very popular during the period from 1850 to 1880. The substitution of cast iron for masonry load-bearing walls permitted the use of large display windows. In addition, cast iron could easily be molded into decorative patterns. This storefront was manufactured by a local foundry, Treman, Valen-

tine and Green, which was located behind the Treman, King hardware store. Their stamp is still visible. Rufus Bates operated a grocery store farther south in this block before building this structure for his business. He also dealt in cattle stock. A fire in 1978 gutted much of the top two floors, but the owners restored the building in 1979.

Many years earlier (around 1804), David Quigg established Ithaca's first full-time business on this corner, exchanging imported goods (that is, goods imported from outside Ithaca) for home products. He had begun trading around 1801 from a cabin on Cascadilla Creek (see DeWitt Park tour). In 1853, his sons J. W. and James moved the business to 32 East State (now 130), where it continued to operate until the 1890s.

112 N. Aurora (before 1873). Plum's Restaurant has extensively remodeled the first floor while retaining many of the rich mahogany fixtures of Kline's Pharmacy, which operated here for over 60 years. A facade added in 1919 unifies what were originally two separate buildings. Along the top is a handsome bracketed cornice with a tiled overhang.

108–110 N. Aurora (before 1873). Generations of Cornell students (and others) frequented Zinck's restaurant-bar while it was open from 1880 to 1967 at this and other nearby sites. Morris Bishop and Romeyn Berry both wrote about the legendary Zinck's in their books on Cornell, and a Cornell song ends with "We'll all have drinks / At Theodore Zinck's / When I get back next fall." Theodore Zinck, a Prussian immigrant, opened his "Lager Beer Saloon and Restaurant" in this building in 1880; he called it the Hotel Brunswick. He operated the business until 1903, when he drowned himself after his daughter's death in a typhoid epidemic, and the inn closed. It was reopened at the same address in 1906, and continued intermittently under various names and at various sites until 1967. The name of Zinck's is not forgotten at Cornell, however, because a group of students calling itself the Spirit of Zinck's meets at different bars during the school year.

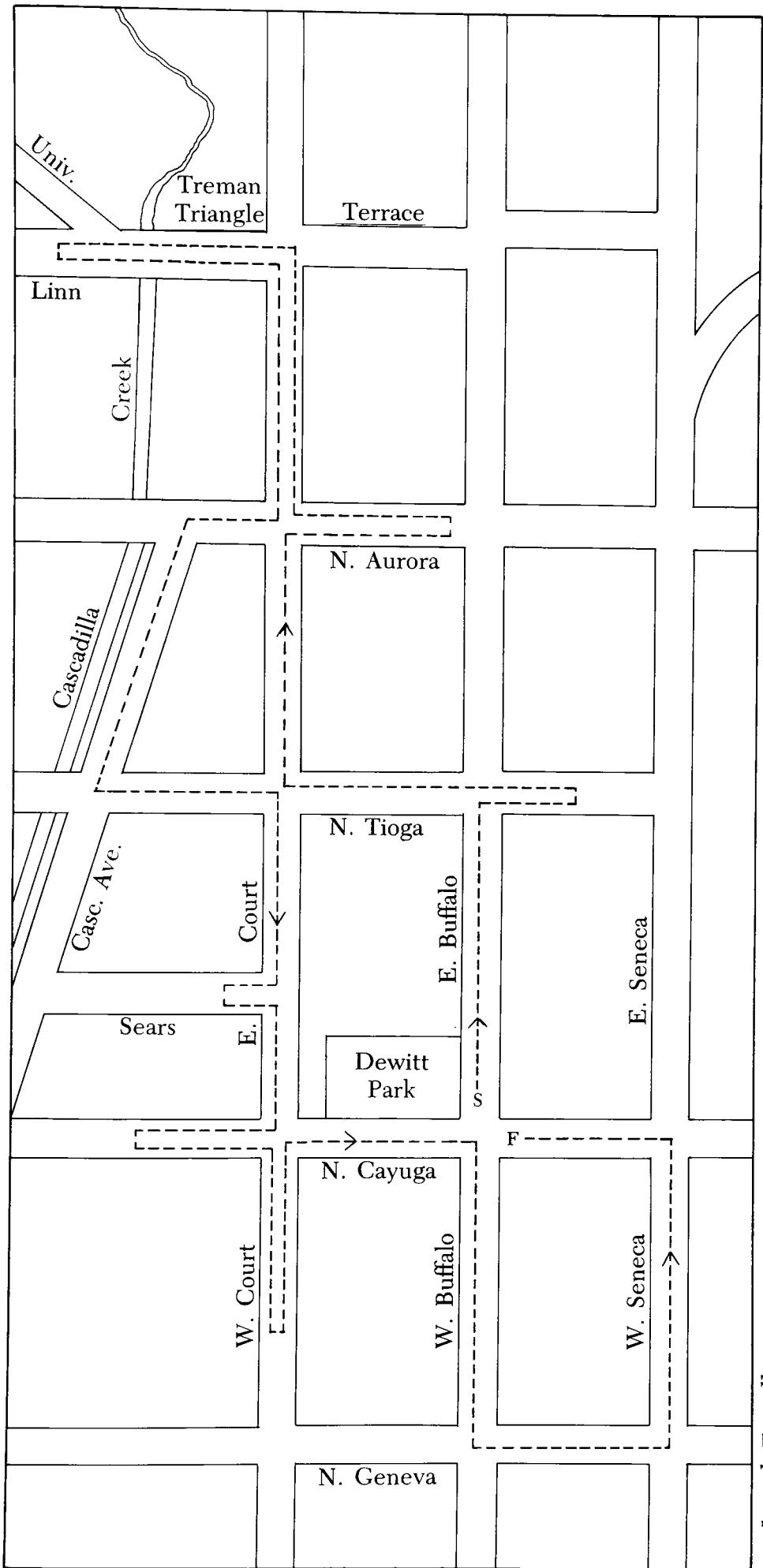
II. DeWitt Park and Adjacent Areas

The DeWitt Park area has been designated as both a local and a national historic district, although the local district is slightly larger. It includes, more or less, the area bounded by Tioga Street on the east, Buffalo on the south, Cayuga on the west, and a line cutting through the 400 block of North Cayuga and North Tioga on the north. Two of the buildings (the Boardman House and the Old Courthouse) are also listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. Aside from these two buildings, the DeWitt Park Historic District includes the park, three churches and a synagogue, a newer courthouse and jail, the post office and the library, and many notable houses.

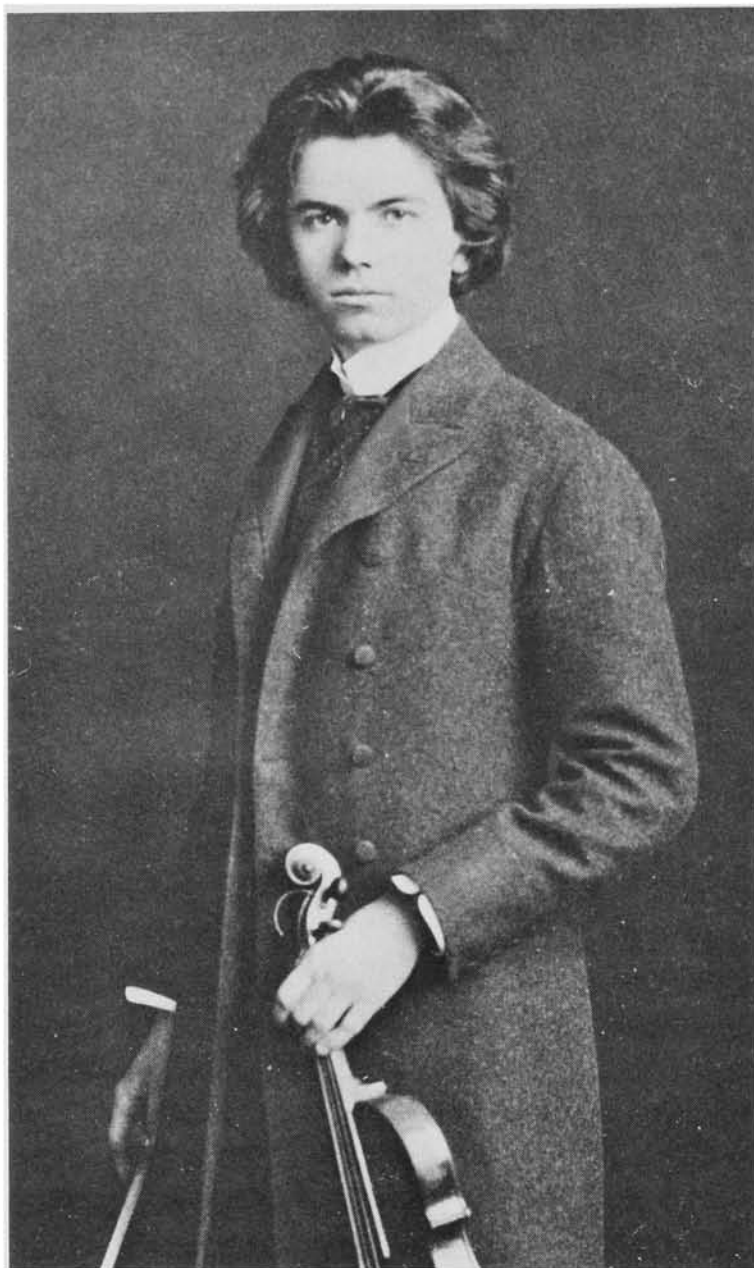
Many buildings here have been extensively renovated in recent years, especially public ones like the Old Courthouse, the DeWitt Building, the First Baptist Church, and the Boardman House (partially). Unfortunately, there is also considerable pressure to convert houses into apartments and offices. While not necessarily harmful in itself, this trend does lessen the diversity and strength of the neighborhood. In addition, building interiors are often irreversibly altered.

For much of this century, the DeWitt Park area served another function that is no longer apparent. From the 1910s until the 1960s, Ithaca College occupied large portions of the area, and DeWitt Park was the center of college activity. The college was founded in 1892 as the Ithaca Conservatory of Music by W. Grant Egbert, a violinist born in Danby. It opened its doors at the Day House, 403 E. Seneca. From 1894 to 1911 (except for occasional years), the conservatory occupied the upper floors of the Wilgus Block (formerly at the corner of State and Tioga). It moved to the Boardman House, 120 E. Buffalo, in 1911 and remained downtown until the move to South Hill in the early 1960s.

The young conservatory expanded by establishing affiliated schools (later incorporated): the Williams School of Expression and Dra-



Joseph Terrell



W. Grant Egbert. (Courtesy Ithaca College Archives.)

matic Art in 1908, the Ithaca Institution of Public School Music in 1910, the Ithaca School of Physical Education in 1916, and the Conway Military Band School in 1922. Other schools, such as the Martin Institute of Speech Correction, the School of Chautauqua and Lyceum Arts, and the Westminster Choir School, were affiliated for only a few years. In 1931 the conservatory became Ithaca College.

The Boardman House served as the administration building. (Even after the move, it served as the museum of art until 1972.) As the college expanded, it built new buildings behind the house and at-



Part of the downtown campus of Ithaca College as seen from DeWitt Park. On the right is the Boardman House; attached to the back of the house are the Little Theatre and an administrative annex. The steeple of the First Baptist Church is at the far left.

tached to it, all the way back to the First Baptist Church. The first structure was the Little Theatre (c. 1913); an administrative annex was added in 1924. The college also built a building to house the library and radio-television studios next door (now a county office building), and an L-shaped classroom-office building behind the library. After IC moved to South Hill, the county purchased all these buildings and tore down everything except the Boardman House and the library.

Many existing buildings were taken over by the college as well, for varying periods of time. The Crescent and Star theaters became gyms; the Gosman House, 314 N. Cayuga, became a music building; an Italianate house at 130–132 E. Buffalo was named Williams Hall and contained the cafeteria, a women's dorm, and the speech department's offices and classrooms; the Congregational church (now Greek Orthodox) became a classroom-office building for the music department; and the rowhouses at 321–325 N. Tioga became a women's dorm known as Westminster Hall.

In addition, the college took over many houses on East Buffalo and Seneca streets. Most of them became college dorms and fraternity and sorority houses. The house at 2 Fountain Place became the

president's house and remains so. Its carriage house on Willets Place now serves as a guest house but was once the college infirmary.

In the late 1950s, the college expanded in another direction by purchasing the old county hospital on South Quarry Street (off East State). It converted the main building to a dorm named Quarry, the nurses' home on Valentine Place to a dorm named Valentine, and the utility building to the college's first science building. Quarry Dorm later became Ithacare Center, a residential care facility for the elderly and handicapped.

DeWitt Park (1810s). Around 1795 Simeon DeWitt, surveyor general of New York, received 1000 acres of land in this area in exchange for services rendered the son of the original owner, Abraham Bloodgood. When DeWitt began laying out the area, he planned for a town green here. He gave some of his land to religious denominations and donated a lot for the courthouse in 1817. Around the green he laid out a few very desirable house lots.

In the late 1810s he sold about half of the present park area to the Presbyterian Church, which actually built the first park here. (The church acquired the rest of the land in an exchange with DeWitt.) The park became known as the Publick Square, but the name was later changed to honor DeWitt. The original deed contained the stipulation that the land be maintained as a "publick walk and promenade." In 1856 the church and the village made an agreement whereby the village took over the care and control of the park but the church retained the title, an agreement still in force.

DeWitt Building (including DeWitt Mall and DeWitt Park Apartments) (1912). 215 N. Cayuga. Since 1807 school buildings have stood on this site. In that year Ithaca's first school was built at the corner of Seneca and Cayuga, but it was destroyed ten years later by a mob. On the same spot the Ithaca Academy, a private school built partly with public funds, was begun in 1819 and completed in 1826. The academy added a new brick building in 1840. When the state law of 1874 established a system of graded schools, the academy's buildings were turned over to the newly formed Board of Education, which used the buildings to house both a grammar school and a high school. These buildings were demolished in 1885, however, to make way for a new high school. When that structure burned down in 1912, the present building was erected. It was designed in a late Gothic Revival style by William Henry Miller and was one of his last commissions.



The DeWitt Building in 1914.

After the current high school was constructed near Fall Creek in 1960, this building (the old high school) became DeWitt Junior High School. That use lasted only until 1971, however, when a new junior high was built near the new high school. At this point the site seemed destined to become a parking lot, but local architect William S. Downing, Jr., purchased the building in 1971 and turned it into an imaginative combination of shops, offices, and apartments. Note the terra-cotta signs denoting separate entrances for boys and girls on the Cayuga Street side.

119–121 E. Buffalo (c. 1860). This brick double building has a number of unusual features: cast-iron railings and basement entrances in front, a covered entrance (with trellises) on the east side, and a second-story bay window on the west side. The style combines Federal and Greek Revival elements; the stepped gables (in the Dutch–Hudson River style) are Federal; the transoms and cornices are Greek Revival.

Boardman House (1866). 120 E. Buffalo. George McChain, a publisher and twice president of Ithaca, built this Italianate mansion on land he bought from Ezra Cornell. After a fire destroyed his business, however, he was forced to sell the house. It was purchased by Douglass Boardman, lawyer, judge, and first dean of Cornell Law School, in 1884, and his family owned the house for many years. In 1910 his widow sold it to the Ithaca Conservatory of Music (later Ithaca College), which used the house as its administration building and built other buildings nearby. (See page 60 for more information



The double building at 119–121 East Buffalo Street around 1913.

on the Boardman House and IC's downtown campus.) Most of these buildings were torn down in 1972, however, after the county bought them and the Boardman House from the college. Then in 1975 the county Board of Representatives voted to tear down the Boardman House as well, but community protests have so far prevented this action.

A. B. Dale designed the house, which features an elaborate porch with Ionic columns, ornate cast-iron window hoods, rope molding over the door and windows, a square cupola, and paneled chimneys. The exterior was renovated in the late 1970s by a local nonprofit organization, using, in part, historic preservation funds granted by the city.

County Office Building (1953). 128 E. Buffalo. The first story of this building was erected by Ithaca College to house its library, and the second story was added in 1957 for radio-television studios. The architect was Tallman and Tallman. In the early 1950s, the college built an L-shaped classroom-office building behind the library. It has since been demolished.



The Boardman House, 120 East Buffalo Street. (Photograph by C. Hadley Smith. Courtesy Historic Ithaca.)

First Federal Savings Building (1967). 300 N. Tioga. William Downing and Associates designed this Miesian building for the Ithaca Savings and Loan Association, which was founded in 1915 and is now a part of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Rochester. The glass-curtain structure replaced Williams Hall, which had occupied the site from the 1920s to the 1960s. It had housed a women's dormitory, the cafeteria, and the speech department offices and classrooms of Ithaca College.

New York Telephone Company Building (c. 1911). 212–220 N. Tioga. The pilasters and pediment (the Greek temple facade) mark the original Colonial Revival building on the south (designed by Meade and Hamilton of Cleveland); the rest was added in stages. An iron railing tops off the new sections. From 1902 to 1921, Ithaca had



The United States Post Office around 1910, before the additions.

two phone companies. One was part of the Bell system, and was begun by William A. Anthony and William O. Wyckoff around 1878 and taken over by the New York and Pennsylvania Telephone and Telegraph Company (later New York Telephone) in 1883. The other was part of the Federal system, and was begun by local residents in 1902 and purchased by Federal Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1909. New York Telephone bought Federal in 1918, however, and merged the systems in 1921.

United States Post Office (1910). 213 N. Tioga. The first Ithaca post office, established in 1806, occupied a counter in a “publick house,” the Dwight Tavern, on the southwest corner of Owego (State) and Tioga. The post office later rented space in the Cornell (Public) Library and the Colonial Building. Federal architect James Knox Taylor designed this fine Beaux Arts building. It has large Ionic columns, elaborate arched windows, a fan-shaped decorative grill over the main entrance, a handsome frieze, a roof balustrade, and dormers. Inside are vaulted ceilings and marble wall facings.

Site of the YMCA Building (1908). 202 E. Buffalo. Formed in 1889, the YMCA rented space until it could build its own building, which burned down in 1978. It had been designed by Gibb and Waltz.

307 N. Tioga (c. 1830). An excellent example of the Federal style, this building is one of only about six brick Federal homes left in Ithaca. In 1864 Betsey Ann Cornell, the wife of Ezra Cornell’s brother



307 North Tioga Street around 1913.

Elijah, bought the building from Ezra. In the 1920s, it housed an Ithaca College sorority house; in the 1930s and 1940s, Clark's Smorgasbord; and until 1978, Reinhardt's Interiors. Especially interesting features include the stepped gables (in the Dutch-Hudson River style), each with two chimneys and an attic fanlight, the stamped metal ceiling in the front room of the first floor, and evidence of a large oven in the basement. The picture window and the bay windows were added later. The front door has been changed, and the chimneys on the south gable have been shortened.

313 N. Tioga (between 1873 and 1882). This block once had two sets of twin houses, an unusual occurrence. Even more unusual is the fact that one set has survived: this house and 315, which were originally identical. (The other set occupied 309 and 311.) Built in the Italian Villa style, the house features a pointed cap on the tower, unusual window moldings, and a porch (added after 1915). The building was handsomely renovated in 1978, and some of the original



313 North Tioga Street. (Photograph by Carl Koski, 1981.)

interior woodwork remains. Robert C. Osborn owned the house for about 20 years around the turn of the century; he later moved to the Stowell House, 303 N. Aurora. Osborn operated a “Confectionary, Fancy Goods, Stationery, and Newsroom” at 119 E. State (where Holley’s now stands).

315 N. Tioga (between 1873 and 1882). Some of the many alterations made here include the replacement of the front porch with a one-story addition, flattening of the tower cap, and insertion of glass brick in several windows. John Vant, steamboat captain, owned this house in the 1890s and 1900s.

317 N. Tioga (c. 1865). Like other buildings in this area, this house shows the transition from the Greek Revival to the Italianate style. It has Greek Revival returns, but it also has Italianate hoods and paneled double doors.



The Tompkins County Courthouse under construction.

319 N. Tioga (c. 1890). Designed in the Queen Anne style, this house has an irregular roofline and a variety of window shapes, including a Palladian window and an oval stained-glass window. The porch has paired columns that lead to paired pilasters on the second story. Frank Eschenburg, proprietor of the “Ithaca Hotel Barber Shop and Bath Rooms,” occupied it in the 1890s and 1900s.

321–325 N. Tioga (c. 1885). This set of three rowhouses is one of only about four examples of brick rowhouses remaining in Ithaca. Probably built by Charles F. Blood, a local merchant and real estate developer, they once faced a set of four rowhouses across the street. From the 1930s to the 1960s these buildings served as an Ithaca College women’s dorm known as Westminster Hall. Architectural features include arched windows and doorway on the first floor, rectangular two-story bays, and unusual brick window moldings.

Tompkins County Courthouse (1932). 320 N. Tioga. This is the third and most recent courthouse in Tompkins County. (The second one is two buildings west on Court Street.) Designed by J. Lakin Baldrige in the Neo-Georgian style, it features a double staircase leading to the main entrance, bronze double doors in an elaborate entranceway, a central bay that is set forward slightly, tall pilasters, and a round window in the main pediment. Inside is a marble-lined lobby.

Formed in 1817, Tompkins County was named after Daniel D. Tompkins, vice president elect of the United States at the time.

Tompkins had been a lawyer, congressman, state supreme court justice, and governor of New York before serving as vice president during the two terms of James Monroe's presidency.

207 E. Court (c. 1840). One of the earliest homes in this area, this Greek Revival house has typical returns. In the 1920s a porch and entranceway were added.

208 E. Court (1916). Built as the parsonage for the Methodist Episcopal church (now simply called Methodist), this building has been used for that purpose ever since. One of the few houses in Ithaca in the Prairie style (after Frank Lloyd Wright); it was designed by Clinton L. Vivian. It has leaded-glass windows on the first floor, three gold stained-glass windows at the first-floor landing, natural oak woodwork, and massive brick fireplaces.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church (1907). Corner of Aurora and Court. Methodists built the second church in Ithaca here in 1820; it was noted for having the first church bell in town. Founded as the First Methodist Episcopal Church in 1819, the congregation built a second, brick structure on the same site in 1866, which makes the present church the third on this site. In 1960, First Methodist combined with State Street Methodist to form St. Paul's. Architects Brown and Davis of Cincinnati designed the Romanesque structure, with its rough stone walls, corner tower with open arcade, domed nave, and handsome stained-glass windows. A large central tower has been removed.

322 N. Aurora (between 1851 and 1866). Probably built for George Fowles, a miller, this late Greek Revival house has four square columns supporting the gable, pilasters at the corners, and distinctive moldings on the door and windows. One frieze window on the south remains. Note that the capitals on the columns are a couple of feet below the roofline (they are usually found at the tops of columns).

320 N. Aurora (c. 1905). Originally a two-family house, this Colonial Revival building was renovated in 1980–1981 by attorney Michael J. Pichel. Downstairs are his offices, upstairs is an apartment. The building has a Palladian-style window in the gable, scalloped shingles at the floor level, and a two-story gabled bay window on the north.

318 N. Aurora (before 1851). This Greek Revival home may have been built for Thomas McElheny, deputy county clerk, who lived here from at least the 1860s to the 1890s. Note the returns on the north and south sides, and the bracketed window hoods.

316 N. Aurora (before 1851). Still a residence, this Greek Revival house has returns and a frieze window on the north.

306 N. Aurora (1895). Oliver L. Dean, president of Bush and Dean, dry goods, built this marvelously eclectic house and lived here for at least the first 30 years of this century. After Dean, physicians Francis Forster and later Frank S. Janas had their offices here, and the house later served as the Unitarian parish hall and church school. The front of this Queen Anne house, which was designed by William Henry Miller, features a two-story porch with its own gable, an ornate molding on the front door, a Palladian window with leaded glass, and an eyebrow window. One of the bays on the south side has three leaded-glass windows, two with stained glass in the center. Much of the interior woodwork is intact, as are the glazed tiles around the fireplaces.

First Unitarian Church (1893). Corner Aurora and Buffalo. Ezra Cornell and others founded the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca in 1865. William Henry Miller designed the first church building, which was built in 1873 on the corner of Buffalo Street and Terrace Place. He also designed the current Romanesque building. Reportedly, when the first Unitarian pastor came to town, some of the other ministers refused to call on him because they did not consider him a Christian.

Stowell House (also known as the Osborn House) (1880). 303 N. Aurora. This block contains some of Ithaca's finest houses, which were built by prominent nineteenth-century merchants. William Henry Miller designed this house for Calvin D. Stowell, a graduate of Yale and the son and partner of J. C. Stowell, wholesale grocer. (The Stowell grocery operated at 127–129 W. State from the 1880s to the 1940s.) Robert C. Osborn bought the house in 1914; his widow still lives here and has maintained the residence virtually intact. The Queen Anne house features a tower with an iron weather vane, projecting bays, half-timbering, metal snow eagles at the edge of the roof (to prevent snow from sliding off), handsome brickwork on the chimneys, and stained-glass windows on the north and south and in the double front doors. A cast-iron fence surrounds the entire lot. The carriage house (c. 1892) is designed in a similar style, probably also by Miller.

The main house stands on the site of Daniel Bates's tannery, one of two tanneries in Ithaca in 1821. The other one was operated by



The Stowell House, 303 North Aurora Street. (Photograph by Carl Koski, 1981.)

Comfort Butler across the street at the southeast corner of Buffalo and Aurora. Both tanneries used water from the north branch of Six Mile Creek, which was later filled in. Bates was the first president of the village of Ithaca. An early biography described his successful business career as follows: “His genius for thrift was upon the public tongue.”

Brooks House (between 1873 and 1882). 309 N. Aurora. This site was also part of Bates’s tannery, and Ezra Cornell owned the lot in 1866. Arthur B. Brooks, a pharmacist and owner of Brooks Pharmacy, built this house. His son John G. Brooks, also a pharmacist, owned it after him. The Italianate home features an open front porch, a two-story bay window on the south, and elaborate door and window moldings. The porch and roof have similar pediments. The center window on the second story has an unusual window hood.

Livermore Memorial Building (c. 1890). 313 N. Aurora. Although built in the Eastlake style, this house was remodeled in the mid-1890s to fit the Queen Anne style. Exceptional features include a tower with a tall cap, a Palladian window in the main gable, paired



The Livermore Memorial Building, 313 North Aurora Street.

Doric half-columns on the porch, a lion's-head medallion on the second-story facade, and a carriage house that is more elaborate than many houses. The interior has oak and pine woodwork, and lion's-head medallions (similar to the exterior one) ornament the original dining room table and chairs. Charles G. Hoyt was the original owner. George Livermore, a founder of Ithaca Gun Company in 1883, and later president, bought the building in 1902. He and his son Paul lived here for many years. Paul gave the house to the Ithaca Community Chest in 1952, and that organization, founded in 1922 and now known as the United Way of Tompkins County, still owns it.

317 North Aurora (before 1888). Before the present occupants, physicians Edward Cowell and Stewart Wallace had their offices here. The tower (added after the initial construction) has carved fans over several windows and patterned shingles under the roofline. The southern exposure contains three stained-glass windows. Note also the large carriage house.

319 N. Aurora (between 1888 and 1893). This house is a typical Queen Anne structure, with an irregular roofline, several gables, a porch, and a variety of window shapes. Ezra Cornell owned the property in 1870.

321 N. Aurora (c. 1891). This Queen Anne house has a large bay



The 300 block of East Court Street (south side), looking east from Aurora Street.
(Photograph by Carl Koski, 1981.)

on the front and two stained-glass windows. It was designed by John M. Wilgus.

309 E. Court (c. 1873). From 309 to 319 we find an unusual row of four similar houses. This Italianate house was probably built by Frank J. Enz, a partner with T. G. Miller in Enz and Miller, a wholesale paper company. Enz's widow lived here until at least 1910. The house has ornate roof brackets and arched windows. The unusual placement of the cupola makes it seem like a tower. (For that reason, some people would call the style of the house Italian Villa.) The cast-iron fence was added recently.

313 E. Court (c. 1875). Unlike the other three, this house was designed in the Second Empire style, which features a double-pitched roof on all sides (often called a mansard roof). John E. Van Natta, a carpenter and later a farmer, may have built the house, and he lived here until at least 1899. Note the bands of slate on the roof, the round-headed windows with ornamented arches, the elaborate roof brackets, and the large carriage house.

317 E. Court (c. 1865). Although almost identical to 319, this

Italianate house has a cottage in the rear. Note the curved railings on the porch.

319 E. Court (c. 1865). Although the shingles have been added, the interior is intact, with detailed plastering on the ceilings.

101 Linn (between 1882 and 1893). This Queen Anne house stands at the north end of Terrace Place, a lane used by Ithaca's first settlers. It has a Stick style porch with an entrance on the corner and a second-story bay on the south side.

Treman Triangle. At the foot of Cascadilla Gorge, where Court, Linn, and University meet. One of Ithaca's first non-Indian settlers, Peter Hinepaw, built his cabin in this area in 1789, just east of where University touches Cascadilla Creek (near the site of the Christian Science church). Another early resident, John Yapple, built Ithaca's first mill on the creek just east of Hinepaw's cabin in 1791. Around 1801, David Quigg built a cabin on the south side of the creek opposite the present site of the Christian Science church. From this cabin he operated Ithaca's first store, selling and bartering a wide variety of goods. A short time later, he moved his business to the southwest corner of Seneca and Aurora (site of the Bates Block), where he established Ithaca's first full-time business (see Commons tour).

Site of Abram Markle's house (c. 1800). 114 Linn. Abram Markle built Ithaca's first frame house north of Cascadilla Creek on the present Linn Street. It was later used as a store and still later became Ithaca's first tavern, being run by Archer Green until 1805.

310 E. Court (c. 1860). Ogilvie R. Stanford, proprietor of the Ithaca Sign Works, lived here for at least the first decade of this century. The house, which is similar to the one at 108 Terrace Place, combines Greek Revival returns with Italianate paired brackets and double doors containing arched windows. The second-story porch was added later.

401 N. Aurora (c. 1865). Although the basic structure is Italianate, with large paired brackets under the roof, a Colonial Revival porch wraps around parts of two sides of the house.

403 N. Aurora (c. 1860). Another transitional building in style, this house is partly Italianate, with roof brackets and paneled double doors, but it also shows Greek Revival elements such as the returns at the gable ends. The Colonial Revival porch was added in 1898.

405 N. Aurora (c. 1850). This house shows typical Greek Revival



The Markle House, 114 Linn Street, around 1957 (since demolished).

elements: a gable end to the street, three bays, and returns. The window moldings are distinctive. The porch was added in 1904.

407 N. Aurora (between 1847 and 1851). Built on the south side of Cascadilla Creek by Charles and Miles Clinton, machinists and inventors, this house combines several styles: the molding is Greek Revival, the iron grillwork on the porch (added around 1865) is Gothic, and the floor plan and square cupola are Italianate. Also notable are the French windows, oak door with etched glass panels, and hardwood floors and woodwork throughout the interior. Physician Francis Forster bought the house in 1944 and used it as his office and home for many years. In 1972 his widow sold it to Marvin and Patricia Carlson, who renovated it extensively.

408–410 N. Aurora (between 1832 and 1836). This Greek Revival house was probably built for John J. Speed, a member of an old Tompkins County family and an associate of Ezra Cornell in the telegraph business. Speed bought the land from Simeon DeWitt in 1832. The house may have been built as a duplex. The porch was added later.

On the north side of the house is Cascadilla Creek. A walkway along the creek leads to Tioga Street.

413 N. Tioga (between 1866 and 1883). The Christiance family



407 North Aurora Street. (Photograph by Carl Koski, 1981.)

lived here from the 1880s to the 1950s, but the building now contains only offices. The Italianate features include a low-pitched roof supported by ornate brackets and a dentil molding. The south entrance is covered by an elaborate hood. The front entrance has been remodeled in the Colonial Revival style.

411 N. Tioga (before 1851). One of the few remaining single-family residences in the area, this Greek Revival house was probably built by Joseph Esty, founder of Esty Tannery. Note the returns, window moldings, and sidelights at the door. The Italianate hood over the door and its elaborate brackets were probably added later.

405 N. Tioga (before 1851). Although it was greatly modified around 1900, this house is still a clear example of the Greek Revival style, with a temple front containing two fluted Corinthian columns and two square pillars, and modified frieze windows on the sides.

403 N. Tioga/202 E. Court (c. 1902). An abundance of elaborate woodwork marks the outside of this Colonial Revival double house, including an ornate molding on the triple window in the west gable.

Bay windows flank the double doors on the west, and the south gable contains a Palladian window over a pair of small windows. Clinton L. Vivian designed the house for Henry H. Westinghouse, a brother of George Westinghouse who studied at Cornell and married a local woman.

408 N. Tioga (c. 1870). This handsome house may have been built by Ithaca businessman Henry L. Wilgus, who lived here from the 1870s to the 1910s. He is best known for building the Wilgus Block (with his brother John) and for managing the Wilgus Opera House therein. This house has typical Italianate features: paired brackets with a dentil molding under the roofline, ornate window hoods, a hooded front entrance, double front doors with glass panels, and a transom above the doors.

404–406 N. Tioga (between 1910 and 1919). This stucco two-family house has a wide overhanging roof, paired brackets supporting it at the corners, and small-paned upper windows.

Temple Beth-El (1928). Corner of Court and Tioga. The first Jewish residents of Ithaca probably arrived in the 1850s, although the first congregation was not formed until 1906. It met in the home of a member, Isadore Rucker. Services were later held in a rented hall and at the Moose Club, and a Hebrew school was begun. In 1921 the congregation split into two factions, but the two groups reunited in 1924, in time to begin planning and building Ithaca's only synagogue. The rabbi served both as spiritual leader of the temple and as Hillel director at Cornell until the first full-time rabbi was hired in 1942.

Eli W. Goldstein of Buffalo designed the building, which consists of a dome on top of an octagon on top of (more or less) a cube. The main entrance has double bronze doors flanked by domed iron lamps. The arch above the door contains a tile menorah. Note also the tall arched windows.

130 E. Court (before 1851). Still a residence, this house was home to physician Minor McDaniels and his family for about 40 years (1920s–1950s). The Federal-style house features stepped gables in the Dutch–Hudson River manner, louvered shutters, a recessed doorway, sidelights and a transom around the door, and masonry construction, unusual in Ithaca at that time. From the style, one would guess that the house was built around 1830.

128 E. Court (before 1851). The Quinn family resided here for about 50 years. Michael Quinn, of Hammond and Quinn Saloon,

lived here from the 1890s through the 1920s. There is a second-story bay on the east side, unusual molding under the roofline, and a large carriage house.

124 E. Court (before 1851). The many subsequent alterations have almost obscured the original Greek Revival style here (see the returns, and the frieze on the west). Above the bay window the roof rises in three steep arches, each containing a place for a round window. Note also the woodwork design at the peak of the gable and the peaked window hoods.

Tompkins County Jail (1932). 125 E. Court. You will not be surprised to learn that this jail was built at the same time, and designed by the same architect (J. Lakin Baldrige), as the new courthouse.

First Baptist Church (1890). DeWitt Park. The third Baptist church on this site, this church was designed by William Henry Miller in the Romanesque style. The exterior is limestone. The first church on this site was built in 1831, the second in 1855. John D. Rockefeller, who was born in nearby Richford, contributed a large sum for the construction of the current building.

Old Tompkins County Courthouse (1854). 121 E. Court. The oldest Gothic Revival courthouse in the state, this building was the county's second courthouse. Designed by John F. Maurice, a Union Springs architect, it replaced a small cheap wooden Greek Revival building that had been hastily built in 1818 to insure that Ithaca would become the county seat. Simeon DeWitt, who laid out the early village of Ithaca, gave the land to the county. When the new courthouse was built in 1932, the county exchanged the building for another lot. Public outcry forced the county to buy it back in 1934, however, and the building has housed county offices since then.

The second-floor courtroom is especially handsome. The room originally featured an open timber ("cathedral") roof, but an attic and the present ceiling were added during the Victorian period because of the high heating costs. The large brackets are part of the original roof trusses. The building was completely renovated in 1975–1976 as a Bicentennial project.

106 Sears (between 1873 and 1882). Designed in the Stick style, this house remains an excellent example of the small Victorian home. Note the ornate porches and the ornamental shingles in the gables. When Sears Street was only a muddy lane it was known as Goose Alley, because the villagers' geese gathered here beside the creek.

118 E. Court (between 1893 and 1898). This Colonial Revival



The Old Courthouse, on the left, and the First Baptist Church, from DeWitt Park. (Photograph by C. Hadley Smith. Courtesy Historic Ithaca.)

house was the home of Jane Van Cleef, mother of Mynderse Van Cleef, a local lawyer and banker. The Palladian windows in the front and east gables contain diamond-shaped panes in the side panels.

114 E. Court (before 1851). Although most of the houses on this street have a small front yard, this one is set back considerably, and the main entrance is on the west side. The south porch, added after 1900, is supported by Doric columns, as is the hood over the main entrance. French doors, also added after 1900, lead to the south porch. The fan windows above the south porch and above the front door, and the sidelights beside the door, suggest the Federal style, but the returns are Greek Revival. Note also the small brick Greek Revival carriage house. John S. Kline, of Kline's Pharmacy, lived here during the 1930s.

110 E. Court (1857). Although built for dry-goods merchant John Hawkins, whose family lived here for over 70 years (1850s–1920s),



The Bank of Newburgh Building at its original site, 113 West State Street, before 1913.

this house is now owned by the Presbyterian Church, which uses it for offices. Its unusual features include second-story Gothic windows on the east and west sides, with vents in the upper part, window moldings that extend below the sill, and asymmetrical window placement. Note also the sidelights on the front window and door.

Bank of Newburgh Building (c. 1820). 106 E. Court. Originally at 113 W. State (where the State Theater now stands), this building was constructed to house Ithaca's first bank, a branch of the Bank of Newburgh (from the city on the Hudson River) that had been chartered in 1815. Luther Gere, a carpenter and builder, constructed this building as a combination bank and residence. Simeon DeWitt sold the land for 10 cents, obviously to encourage the venture. Around 1830 the assets of the branch bank were purchased by the newly formed Bank of Ithaca, which then built the Colonial Building as its new office. After the bank left, the building became known as the Whiton House because John L. Whiton, a baker whose store was next door to the east, lived in it for 40 years (1829–1869). (The house now known as the Whiton House, 212 S. Aurora, was a later residence of John L. Whiton.) After Whiton left, the building housed the Blue Front Mission, a boarding house, and a corset shop. It was

moved here in 1912 by Reverend Edward H. George to be used as the parsonage of the First Baptist Church.

The building shows both Federal and Greek Revival influences, as befits a structure built during the period of transition between the two styles. Exterior features include tall pilasters, a recessed doorway, an elliptical leaded-glass window with a rose center, and iron grills on the cellar windows. Inside are hand-carved fireplaces and a mahogany hand rail.

Humphrey House (1828). 102 E. Court. Charles Humphrey, an attorney, built this elegant house on land purchased from Simeon DeWitt. Humphrey had served as a captain in the War of 1812 and came to Ithaca around 1817 to represent the Bank of Newburgh. He later served as a congressman, village president, and assemblyman. The style of the house reflects the transition from Federal to Greek Revival. The porch has Ionic columns, and the interior has hand-carved woodwork (including mahogany stair rails), seven fireplaces, a Dutch oven, and a speaking tube. There are leaded-glass, stained-glass, and fan-shaped windows. The architect was probably Ira Tillotson.

407 N. Cayuga (c. 1895). This Queen Anne house has some unusual angles and curves. Note also the leaded-glass window on the first floor, and the single rows of scalloped shingles in several places. It was designed by Vivian and Gibb.

411 N. Cayuga (between 1883 and 1893). This typical late nineteenth-century Ithaca house remained in the Genung family for over 50 years (1880s–1930s).

413 N. Cayuga (before 1873). Residents of this handsome Italianate structure have included Albert H. Platts (in the 1880s), a cigar manufacturer, and Clinton D. Bouton (1890s–1910s), a mayor of Ithaca. Note the iron crest on the roof, the unusual brick window moldings (the pale color adds contrast), and the large carriage house behind. The porch was added around 1900.

410 N. Cayuga (before 1851). This greatly modified house was home to the Almy family for 30 years and to the Allens for 60 years. (Bradford Almy was a lawyer and later a county judge.) The house may have been built in the Greek Revival style originally, with the Italianate brackets being added later.

408 N. Cayuga (before 1851). This elegant and well-preserved Federal house has a fanlight over the door but pilasters and shutters instead of sidelights. It was probably built in the 1820s or 1830s.

406 N. Cayuga (c. 1888). John K. Blackman of Blackman Brothers Grocery probably built this house. His family remained here for about 50 years, until around 1940. The house was altered to its present Colonial Revival style by Clinton Vivian shortly after 1900. It has alladian windows in the main gable and on the north side (the latter as stained glass) and garlanded panels. In the backyard are a Gothic Revival latticework gazebo and a carriage house (c. 1906) that also contains a Palladian window and a handsome second-floor apartment.

404 N. Cayuga (between 1866 and 1872). This Italianate house has two unusual features: a rope molding over the entrance and a small pediment over the double windows on the first floor. It may have been built by William D. Ireland, who lived here for about 30 years (1870s–1890s).

402 N. Cayuga (c. 1825). Julius Ackley built this graceful house, which features two fanlights, one in the arched doorway and one in the main gable, and four tall pilasters. The front porch was added in 1909. Like the houses at 102 and 106 E. Court, this building shows both Federal and Greek Revival influences. Julius and his brother Henry were successful local businessmen, operating together and separately as hatters, among other things.

110 W. Court (between 1888 and 1893). The Elliott family resided here for about 50 years (1890s–1930s). After her father's death, Helen A. Elliott carried on his cigar-box manufacturing business for many years. Now a two-family house, this residence was designed in the Stick style and features an eyebrow dormer window with stained glass.

114 W. Court (before 1851). A second-story porch has been added to this Greek Revival house, which has sidelights at the entrance and a louvered window in the gable.

118 W. Court (before 1851). The porches were added later to this Greek Revival house.

Chamber of Commerce Building (before 1873). 122 W. Court. The most notable design element here is the elegant oval porch with four fluted Ionic columns, which was added around the turn of the century. Note also the woodwork design at the gable peak and the distinctive window moldings. The building now houses the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce, which has on display a number of brochures and other publications. The chamber was founded in 1888 as the Board of Trade.

121 W. Court (before 1872). This Greek Revival house has re-



The Gosman House, 314 North Cayuga Street, in 1937 (since demolished).

turns, a fanlight in the gable, and leaded-glass sidelights beside the door. The brackets under the returns are Italianate, however, and were probably added later.

First Presbyterian Church (1900). Corner of Court and Cayuga. Presbyterians organized the first permanent church in Ithaca in 1804. On this spot in 1816 they built the first church building, a Federal structure that faced the park. In 1853 they replaced it with a Gothic structure designed by James Renwick, who designed Grace Church in New York City. The current Romanesque building is thus the third church to occupy this site. It was designed by New York City architect J. Cleveland Cady and is most noted for the stained-glass windows in the western apse.

Tompkins County Public Library (1968). 314 N. Cayuga. Ithaca's first public library was organized in 1806, and the first public library building, the Cornell Library (donated by Ezra Cornell) was begun in 1863. After that building was torn down in 1960, the library moved temporarily to 417 W. State, and the county board selected Victor Bagnardi to design a new library. Bagnardi designed the curved extension of the library in front to reflect the semicircular apse of the Presbyterian Church across the street, and he designed the open interior balcony so that it could later be made into a full second story.

Unfortunately, the county tore down two fine old Greek Revival houses for the site—the Gosman House and the Munn House (both 1830). The Gosman House (also called the Sage House and the Grant House) occupied the corner spot and was noted for its four massive Doric columns; it served as the Ithaca College Music Building for



The Munn House, 310 North Cayuga Street (since demolished).

about 35 years. The Munn House (also called the Stowell House) was situated one door south. The first brick residence in Ithaca, it was acquired by the Odd Fellows in 1904 and remodeled.

Halsey House (also called the Beebe House) (1820). 308 N. Cayuga. Built by Jeremiah Beebe, this house is one of the few (and one of the best) examples of the Federal style in the county. It has simple lines and an elegant fanlight over the door. Beebe owned the Fall Creek Mill when Ezra Cornell managed it, and he was one of the three partners who later constructed the Clinton House. William Halsey bought the house in 1850 and added a wing; his family lived here until the mid-1960s. The building now contains apartments and an office. The cedar shingle roof, installed in 1980 with the aid of a city preservation grant, reproduces the probable original roof.

Williams House (also called the Speno House and the Fisher House) (1905). 306 N. Cayuga. This impressive Colonial Revival house was designed by Clinton L. Vivian for Roger B. Williams, a businessman (with Williams Brothers Foundry) and banker (later president of First National Bank). During the Depression, the Speno Ballast Company purchased the house, but they later sold it to physician Lyman Fisher, who adapted the building to house medical offices. Exterior features include an elliptical porch supported by six



The Halsey House, 308 North Cayuga Street.

Ionic columns and topped by a bay window with Ionic pilasters. The Ionic theme is even carried to the dormer window above. The curved leaded-glass windows beside the entrance were built to hold plants; the tile shelves were once heated from below. Easily the most impressive feature inside is the two-and-a-half-story main hall, with its curving double staircase leading to a colonnade of 14 arches on the second floor.

Cayuga Apartments (1930). 100 W. Buffalo. J. Lakin Baldrige designed this Neo-Georgian structure, which is marked by small wrought-iron balconies, decorated panels above some windows, and an ornate doorway and foyer.

108 W. Buffalo (c. 1897). This Queen Anne house is typically eclectic, with an irregular roofline, many surface projections, an attached tower, and a variety of window shapes. There are stained-glass windows in the bay on the west side. The house was designed by John M. Wilgus.

114 W. Buffalo (before 1866). This Greek Revival house has re-



The Williams House, 306 North Cayuga Street.

turns, a fanlight in the gable, pilasters at the corners, and leaded-glass sidelights beside the door.

Treman House (before 1840). 210 N. Geneva. Three large Greek Revival homes, known as the Three Sisters, once lined the 200 block of Geneva. This one was owned by members of the Treman family for many years. It has Doric columns and a fanlight in the gable.

Grant House (before 1840). 204 N. Geneva. Only four people have owned this house in over 140 years: the original owner, Grant, captain of a Cayuga Lake steamer; Edmund H. Kyle, a physician; a conductor on the Black Diamond Express (Buffalo to New York City); and the current owner, Paul Russo, also a physician. On this house the columns are Ionic.



The Three Sisters, 200 block of North Geneva Street, in the 1950s. From left to right, the Porter House, the Grant House, and the Treman House.

Site of the Porter House (c. 1830). Corner of Geneva and Seneca. The Porter House was built by Edward L. Porter, an early merchant who later became sheriff. It had Ionic columns and a fanlight in the gable. It was torn down to make way for the service station on the corner.

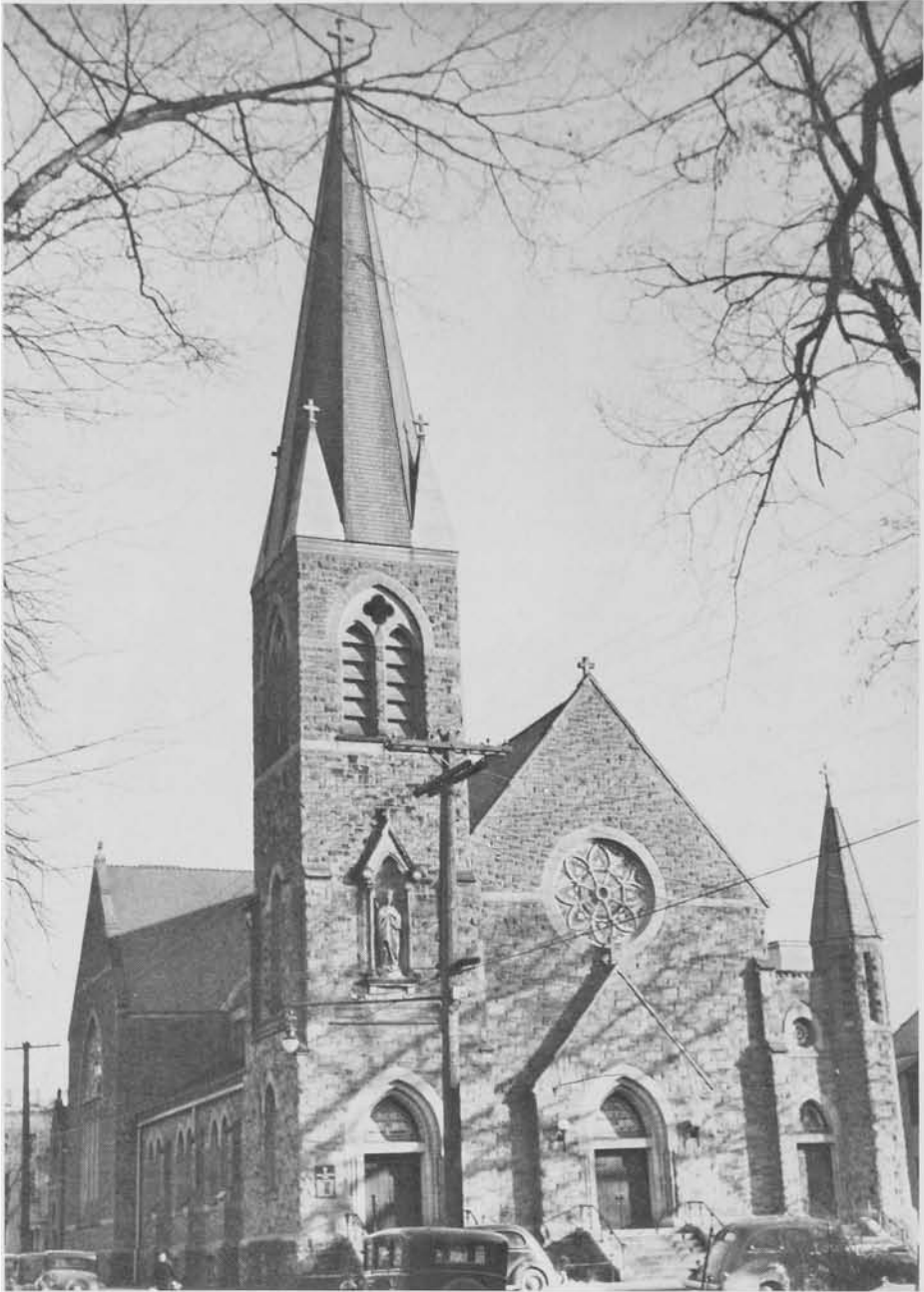
St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church (1884). 120 W. Seneca. Though now a Greek Orthodox church, this building was erected as a Congregational church and later housed Ithaca College music classes and offices. The first congregation was formed in 1830 as the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church and it built a Greek Revival structure on this site in 1831. In 1872 the members of the congregation decided to sever their connection with the Reformed Church, but the parent organization refused to accept their action. Consequently, the church members took the issue to court and eventually won the case. The church then voted to become an independent Congregational church under the official name of the First Church of Christ.

The old building was torn down and the current one built in 1884, based on a design by William Henry Miller; Louis H. Tiffany designed two of the stained-glass windows. The interior was extensively renovated in 1921. In 1959 the congregation decided to move to Cayuga Heights, and the Ithaca College music department took over the building until 1966, when St. Catherine's purchased the church. The first Greeks had apparently arrived in Ithaca in the late 1890s.



The Congregational church in 1944 (now Greek Orthodox).

Immaculate Conception Church (1896). 117 N. Geneva. The first Catholics came to Ithaca in the 1830s and were served by visiting priests until 1848, when the Ithaca parish was formed. The first Catholic church, a small wooden Greek Revival building dedicated in 1851 as St. Luke's, stood on the site of the present parsonage at 113 N. Geneva. The second church, an imposing Gothic structure dedicated in 1860 as Immaculate Conception, occupied the site of the current church. A. B. Wood designed the current church, although the interior has been renovated at least twice. The parish built its first parochial school in 1884, and its convent next door (320 W. Buffalo) in 1927. The parish also operates the Immaculate Conception Shop at 107 W. Seneca.



The Immaculate Conception Church in 1944.

114 W. Seneca (between 1851 and 1866). Built after the Porter, Grant, and Treman houses on Geneva Street, this late Greek Revival home features four massive fluted Ionic pillars, classical moldings, and sidelights and a transom at the door.

Women's Community Building (1959). 100 W. Seneca. In this building, the City Federation of Women's Organizations provides meeting places for about 40 community groups (men and women), a dormitory for about 20 young women, an emergency transient room for women, and a wide variety of classes and programs. The building



St. John's Episcopal Church. (Photograph by Carl Koski, 1981.)

was designed by Tallman and Tallman. Founded in 1910, the federation bought the Winton House, a Second Empire residence on this site, in 1920. The earliest house here was probably the one built by Henry Ackley in the 1810s. It was moved in the 1870s to its current site at 615 W. Seneca.

Ives House (c. 1893). 204 N. Cayuga. John M. Wilgus designed this unusual Queen Anne double house for Charles A. Ives, agent for the Lehigh Valley Railroad. It was renovated in 1978 to serve as office space for the Family and Children's Service, a nonprofit agency.

St. John's Episcopal Church (1860). 210 N. Cayuga. This striking Gothic building with turret and steeple is the second church on the site. The parish was formed in 1822 and within two years built a church, the first brick one in Ithaca. It was demolished in 1859 to make way for the new church, and the parish house (the adjoining building) was added in 1888.

For More Information

To find out more about Ithaca, the best places to go are the DeWitt Historical Society and Historic Ithaca, both in the Clinton House, 116 N. Cayuga.

Full-scale histories of Ithaca can be found in Virginia W. Mayer's easily accessible *Ithaca: Past and Present* (1956), which was written for the public school system, and Henry Edward Abt's *Ithaca* (1926), which is considerably longer and more thorough.

More information about the area immediately adjacent to DeWitt Park can be found in *A Walking Tour of DeWitt Park*, a series of pamphlets written mostly by Carol Sisler and published by Historic Ithaca. Detailed architectural and historical information on many of the buildings in this book can be found in the unpublished historic resources survey compiled mostly by Sarah Hector, Mary Donohue, Marjorie Hermanson, and Margaret Hobbie for the city Department of Planning and Development in 1978–1979 and available in that office and at the DeWitt Historical Society.