

Walnut Street Historic District Self-Guided Walking Tour

The Walnut Street neighborhood has been on the National and New York State Registers of Historic Places since 1980.



image ca. 1900-1910s

The grand homes along Walnut Street reflect the history of Oneonta, which was shaped by the coming of the railroad in 1865. The decades that followed brought prosperity to Oneonta in many forms: hops and dairy production, piano and cigar companies, the State Normal School and Hartwick College, the State Armory, the Central New York Fair, Homer Folks Tuberculosis Hospital, and a bustling downtown, centered around Bresee's Oneonta Department Store and the Oneonta Theatre.



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Walnut Street Historic District: Self-Guided Walking Tour



The Walnut Street Historic District Walking Tour begins at the southeast corner of Dietz and Walnut Streets, one block north of the Oneonta History Center at Dietz and Main. All the buildings listed are on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.



18 Walnut (1895)

The Bugbee House* is a Shingle Style home built for Percy Bugbee, the second president of the Oneonta Normal School, now SUNY Oneonta. Before the 1950s addition on the side of the house, there had been a two-story wrap-around porch and a porte-cochere.



22 Walnut (ca. 1870)

Built by D. M. Miller as a single-story hops warehouse and business office, it was converted to a two-story residence in the 1890s. The green building across the street was Miller's hops-drying barn. In the late 1800s, Otsego County was one of the largest producers of hops in the country. At the turn of the century, a soil-borne virus ended the local hops industry.

26 Walnut (1900)

The Gurney House is an exceptional example of a Queen Anne home with Classical Revival details and Palladian windows.



28 Walnut (1871)

The house once stood at 26 Walnut but was moved shortly before the current house was built on that lot.



30 Walnut (1870)

The Lauren House was the Victorian home of the family of Bertus Lauren, mayor of Oneonta (1926 – 1931) and president of Citizens National Bank & Trust.

Note the ornate carriage house and turn right on Elm.



27 Elm (ca. 1860)

This exceptional Queen Anne house with Classical details was built as an Italianate, the roof being added during the late Victorian period.

25 Elm (1870)

The Moody House is an impressive example of the Second Empire style. In the 20th century, it was a convent for the nuns of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

23 Elm (1870)

The Charles Smith House is in the Second Empire style. It has been the home of Hartwick College's Gamma Phi Delta sorority since 1932.

21 Elm

The Cope House, a Greek Revival house built on this site in 1870, was demolished circa 1990.

Return to Walnut Street.

38 Walnut (1923)

St. Mary's School was here from 1924 to 2001. It is currently the parish center for St. Mary's Church across the street.

40 Walnut (ca. 1870)

The Peasley House was the home of the family of Howard Saunders, a jeweler on Main Street at the end of the 19th century.



5 Maple/Parking Lot

The Clifford Morris House, built at this site circa 1883, was demolished in 1998 and replaced by a parking lot, despite opposition.

2-4 Maple (1870)

This two-apartment building is in the vernacular Italian Villa style.

6 Maple (ca. 1880)

The Hitt House is a Victorian Gothic Cottage.



8 Maple (1887)

This Victorian Gothic was the home of Frank Bresee, founder of Bresee's Oneonta Department Store. The family-owned store was a local institution on Main Street for more than 100 years.

10 Maple (1902)

The Stanley Morris House is a Queen Anne with Classical details.



43 Walnut (1885)

This masterpiece of late Victorian eclecticism has flaring cornices, dormers with bold roofs, a large porch, and a Chateausque tower. It was built for Albert Morris, the first mayor of the city of Oneonta (1908 - 1912). The feed and grain merchant and his family built four homes in what is now the historic district. Daniel Franklin, mayor of Oneonta (1938 - 1942), and his family later resided here.



41 Walnut (1913)

The Burton Morris House, a grand Neo-Classical Revival house, was built by Albert Morris for his son. Its features include a second-story balcony, Ionic columns, a dormer with a Palladian window, and a fanlight over the front door.



35 Walnut (1866)

The Saunders-Keyes House was built by Eliakim Reed Ford for his daughter Jane Ford Saunders. The house was later owned by DeForest Keyes, who built Oneonta's first airfield and developed the Belmont Circle neighborhood on the former Oneonta fairgrounds.

33 Walnut (ca. 1920)

The Flick House is the newest in the historic district. It is in the American Four-Square style, having four rooms on each floor.

31 Walnut (ca. 1885)

The Henry Saunders House is a brick Late Victorian home with an Italianate porch, decorated wood gables, rows of angled brick, and a Chateausque tower.

27 & 29 Walnut (1881 & 1870)

Eliakim Ford had these two Italianate houses built when he owned much of the north side of the street. Though built by different contractors, they each have the flat roofs, bracketed eaves, and double doorways typical of Italianates. 27 Ford was known as the Morrell House.

29 Walnut was the home of Eliakim's son Sylvester.
Turn right onto Ford Avenue.



35 Ford (ca. 1890)

The Barnes-Butts House is an exceptional masonry Chateausque-style home. It was built for contractor Simeon Barnes. Note the tower, the patterned terra cotta plaques, and ornate porch.

33 Ford (1880)

The Bayliss-Bush House was built prior to the turn-of-the-century growth of Walnut Street.



29 Ford (ca. 1890)

This ornate Gothic Victorian with its Eastlake porch was built for Frank Gould, a partner in a local hardware business. NYS Justice Abraham Kellogg lived in the house for 35 years. Kellogg was an early investor in Bundy Time Recorders, which later became part of IBM. His 1986 will left twenty-three million dollars to several local schools and colleges.



21 Walnut (ca. 1882)

This was built as a hops barn for the Miller hops company across the street. It later became a carriage and chauffeur's house for NYS Justice Abraham Kellogg, who lived next door at 29 Ford.



9 Walnut (ca. 1896)

The Farrington-Cleveland House is a brick home with Classical details. It is unusual in that less than a hundred houses in the city of Oneonta are built of brick.

7 Walnut (1900)

The exterior of this house is Queen Anne with Neo-Classical details. The interior is traditional Victorian, a common combination in homes of this period.

5 Walnut (ca. 1915)

The Henry Saunders House is a brick Late Victorian home with an Italianate porch, decorated wood gables, rows of angled brick, and a Chateausque tower.

8 Walnut (ca. 1900)

Similar to 10 Walnut when built, this home was modernized by successive owners. In the 1950s the house was owned by NYS Supreme Court Justice Joseph Molinari.



10 Walnut & 12 Walnut (ca. 1900)

10 Walnut was first owned by Malcolm Keenan. Ponies grazed on the property and were stabled in the barn that is now the shared garage for 10 and 12 Walnut. Keenan later went into partnership with L. C. Millard, and the ponies were moved to Pony Farm Road in the town of Oneonta.

12 Walnut, the Miller-Blanding House, is a less ornate version of its immediate neighbor. Beatrice Blanding was the owner of Oneonta Ford Sales at Market and Chestnut Street Extension and a local philanthropist.

19 Walnut (ca. 1904)

The Hemstreet-Pendleton House is Neo-Classical Revival. It is very unusual for Oneonta, with its two-story columns and portico and elliptical fanlight over the front door. It was built for Citizens Bank officer and attorney Marcus Hemstreet.



57 (ca. 1896) & 61 Dietz (ca. 1906)

57 Dietz is an exceptional Queen Anne with an octagonal tower and half-timbering in the gables. This intersection has an imposing house at each corner, and each with a different architectural style.

Turn right onto Dietz Street.

The Grey Cobbles House at 61 Dietz is an example of the Colonial Revival style.

1-3 Walnut (1912)

This is a late Victorian double house, the two sides being nearly identical from cellars to attics.

2 Walnut (ca. 1870)

In the 1930s, this was the home and office of physician James Greenough.



55 Dietz (1895)

An exceptional Romanesque Victorian, this home was built for Louis Gurney, who worked in dry goods, hops, and salvage. The bricks used for this residence and the one across Walnut at 29 Ford were from the remains of the first Normal School, which was destroyed by fire in 1894.

13 & 11 Walnut (ca. 1896)

13 Walnut is a Queen Anne home with features similar to its neighbor to the west. In the 1960s, owner Dr. J. Herbert Dietz had his office in the family home.

11 Walnut is an exceptional Queen Anne Shingle Style home with a porte-cochere, a complex roofline, a wide porch, and various window shapes and sizes, including a large stained-glass window on its west side.



6 Walnut (1853)

This Greek Revival home is the oldest in the historic district. It was built for Gould Dietz, son of early settler Jacob Dietz. It was originally on Dietz Street. When Walnut Street was extended one block west in 1895, the house was moved. Past owners include Joseph S. Lunn, mayor of Oneonta (1912 – 1917) and, in the 1960s, Hartwick College president Frederick Binder.



***The named houses, such as Bugbee House, are the terms used in the application for National Register of Historic Places status.**