

# Liverpool Walking Tour 2019



History abounds in the Village of Liverpool. This latest installment of our walking tours takes in houses, green spaces and monuments put on them.

Stroll, imagine and enjoy, but please stay on the sidewalk!

### **Café at 407 - 407 Tulip Street**

It's 1929. Billy Frank's Whale Food Store at 407 Tulip St. is offering Kellogg's Corn Flakes for 7 cents and a pound of butter for 28 cents. Cash only, please. In 1938, Fred Wagner took over the building and opened Liverpool Hardware. The hardware store offered tools and housewares, paint and sporting goods, gardening supplies, glass installations, pipe threading, and do-it-yourself machine rentals, all in the days before "big box" hardware stores. The building later housed Liverpool Stationers and other businesses. The Café at 407 and the non-profit Ophelia's Place opened at this location in 2003.



### **Presbyterian Church - 603 Tulip Street**

The brick First Presbyterian Church building is a church that salt built, dating from 1862 and dedicated on March 6, 1863. Prosperous salt manufacturers contributed heavily to its construction. The architect was Horatio Nelson White (1814-1892), the architect of Syracuse University's Hall of Languages, the Gridley Building in downtown Syracuse, and many others. White's fee was \$50. This style is called Second Empire, with its steeply sloping mansard roof and towers. The clock in the tower was installed



in 1892, and was originally the official village clock. The Village of Liverpool paid \$25 per year for use of the tower and maintenance of the clock. The Liverpool Presbyterian congregation was first formed in 1829 and met in a school building that stood in Johnson Park. A wooden structure was constructed on the current site in 1841 but became so dilapidated it was replaced by the current structure.

## Grandy Park

This little triangle park that sits between Tamarack, Vine and Park streets was known as the Village Green in early Liverpool and later renamed Grandy Park, after Mayor Ray Grandy, who served from 1951 to 1967. In the early 1800s it was part of a larger two-block green space. Militia parades and general training were held in this area, and they were popular annual events. Some people said there was more gin than training in "general training." A resident born in 1825 and interviewed in 1894 remembered:

"It was always a great day for the village and surrounding country. The officers were mostly mounted. Guns were not a necessity at all. Gingerbread



however was. It came in large cards streaked in parallel lines one way. One streak was a cut and its price was one cent." The interviewer wrote: "With one or two cents for gingerbread and the martial music of the fife and drum putting life, spring and a mysterious inspiration of something into everybody, the flood tide of juvenile happiness seemed to have been reached."

Just past Grandy Park is a small neighborhood of modest Greek Revival style houses, likely all built at about the same time in the mid-1840s. They may have been constructed by the same builder, perhaps built on speculation (that is, constructed to sell). The yellow one facing the park is a good example. You can see the characteristic eave returns and the small windows on the wing portion of the house.



## 612 Oswego Street

This house dates to before 1860. It was a substantial Greek Revival home when built, but its architectural details are now lost. Since about 1893 this building has had mixed residential and business uses, including law offices, a candy shop, gas station, restaurants, pharmacies, a tattoo parlor, and the barbershop.

## Masonic Lodge

Masons have been active in Liverpool since the village was settled. Liverpool Lodge 525 (Free & Accepted Masons (F&AM) was chartered in 1862. The Lodge met upstairs at 301 First St. and various other meetings rooms until the organization moved into its own building here, constructed in 1918.



## Methodist Church

The Methodist congregation formed in 1820, the 11 members meeting first in members' houses and then in an 1827 building in Johnson Park shared with other congregations and local school children. The church purchased the Johnson Park "Union Building" in 1841 next to today's library. (The Union Building was demolished in 1995.) The brick portion of the current church was built in 1856 in the Greek Revival style. The church was enlarged in 1873 and has been expanded several times since.



## Blue Office Building, corner Oswego and Vine (600 Oswego St.)

This 1896 building, now much altered, was constructed for St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The congregation was formed by German immigrants to Liverpool and incorporated in 1854 and they met first in a church building on the corner of Vine and Hazel Streets. Later they met in this building which features a spire and stained glass windows by Arts and Crafts artist Henry Keck. The windows are now in the collection of Onondaga Historical Association. Services were delivered in German into the 20th century. The congregation moved to their current brick building on Hazel Street in 1966.



## 514 Oswego St. (J.T. Creamery)

This house was built about 1910 by Leonard Sharrer on the site on an old tavern and oyster saloon. It was a Sears-Roebuck mail order kit. The plan and materials arrived by train, and Sharrer used his carpentry skills to build the house himself. This building was later the office and home of Dr. Robert Hagen, who moved there in 1927. In 1942 Hagen charged \$2 for an office visit and \$3 for a house call.

## 602 Vine St. (Wyker House)

This late 19th-century house is an example of Queen Anne Revival style. It was built for Fred Wyker (1864-1935), who had a prosperous coal and willow steaming business in the 100 block of First Street. Wyker also had a political career, serving as Salina Town Supervisor in 1908 and again in 1914, and Onondaga County Sheriff from 1910 to 1912. The house later became a funeral home and then lawyers' offices.



## 609 Vine St. (Hicks House)

This Greek Revival cobblestone house, unique in the village, was built in 1854 for Jonathan P. Hicks. It features a full pediment and massive columns. Hicks came to Liverpool before 1822, and lived in the early years on First Street next to his 1839





Cobblestone Hotel. He prospered from his mercantile ventures, the hotel and the salt industry, and was a major contributor to his church and the growing community.

### 608/610 Vine St. (Bassett House)

This house was built for Jared Bassett, a salt manufacturer, in the late 1850s. It was a prosperous time for the salt industry. This house is a grand example of our local Italianate style, the “houses that salt built,” featuring

stucco garland trim, and unlike many others of this vintage still has its cupola. The cupola was practical as well as stylish. In the summer the cupola windows would be opened to vent the hot air from the upper floors of the building. In the early 20th century, this house belonged to the Stevens family, which raised prize cattle in a business known as the Brookside Herd. Stevens cattle auctions, held at an auction house on Old Liverpool Road, drew buyers from all over the world.



### 109 Aspen Street

This building, behind 608/610 Vine St., is now converted to apartments but was originally part of the Stevens property on the corner. It was designed for Ralph Stevens in 1915 by famed architect Ward Wellington Ward as a creamery, and used in conjunction with the cattle business. Ward’s own home was located on Old Liverpool Road, later converted

to Le Moyne Manor and recently demolished.

### 100 Block of Aspen Street

This block of modest 19th-century houses could be called “willow row.” In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, basket makers worked here at 108, 105, 104, and 103; a workshop still stands behind 108 Aspen St. Willow basket weaving supported much of the village at that time, and this little block is one of several “willow rows” in the village.



### 418 Cypress St.

This house was originally the late-19th century home of Catholic church St. Joseph’s Rectory. It was moved about two blocks along Cypress Street to this site in 1961 to make way for the new Post Office.



### Post Office and Gas Station

St. Joseph the Worker church and rectory stood on this site from 1889 to 1958, when a new church and school were opened at the church’s current site on Tulip and Sixth streets.

The earliest Post Office was located on First Street, near

the corner of Tulip Street; the first Post Master was appointed in 1839. Over the years it has moved to 304 Tulip St., 330 First St., and 103 Third St.

Looking up Oswego Street from this corner, toward Old Liverpool Road, was a row of basket makers' houses and shops, some of which lasted into the 1960s. You could see the weavers' products hanging on the front porches of their houses and displayed for sale on the front lawns, an iconographic memory of the village for many older local residents. Today the block contains modern businesses and parking lots, perhaps useful but not the stuff of memories.



## Memorial Park (Lamb Park)

This park was originally called Lamb Park after James Lamb, a State salt industry official whose residence faced the park on the lot next to 514 Oswego Street. It is located in the center of the village.



Cross Oswego Street at Vine Street. The Lambs were early Liverpool settlers, the first being Handley Lamb (c.1780-1832), who married Polly Danforth, daughter of Liverpool's first settler John Danforth. The cannon was

dedicated in 1957 "to the veterans of all our country's wars" by Liverpool's American Legion Post 186.

A time capsule was buried in this park in 1977 as part of the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial celebration. Covered by a millstone, it is to remain sealed for 100 years and contains objects from village residents that typify the time.

## Richberg's Tavern (209 Second St.)

This building dates to about 1860, when German immigrants John Richberg (1829-1899) and Mary Maurer Richberg (1833-1910) lived at this site. John was a salt boiler who also worked at basket weaving in his later years. Their son George Richberg (1854-1938) ran a tavern in this building, and the Liverpool Basket Weavers Association met here (shown in picture). George was also an insurance broker and a musician. He played in an orchestra at the inauguration of President Garfield in 1881 and in various village orchestras over the years.



# Liverpool Public Library

310 Tulip St, Liverpool, NY 13088

LPL.org • info@LPL.org • 315-457-0310

## Hours:

Monday - Thursday .....9am-9pm

Friday.....9am-6pm

Saturday ..... 10am-5pm

Closed Sundays through Labor Day

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