The 100 Acre Tract: The Heart of the Village of Rochester

1788
The Seneca Indians ceded Oliver Phelps & Nathaniel Gorham 2,600,000 acres of land east of the Genesee River and granted an additional 200,000 acres west of the river for a mill yard on condition that a mill be erected for their use. Phelps and Gorham conveyed 100 acres to Ebenezer (Indian) Allan who, in 1798, built a sawmill and gristmill on the One Hundred Acre Tract, fulfilling the agreement between the Seneca Indians and Oliver Phelps & Nathaniel Gorham. (Phelps & Gorham Purchase).

Irving Place
Old City Hall at Irving Place was designed by architect Andrew Jackson Warner. The Erie Canal ran alongside the building until its last season in 1919. The subway ran in the old canal bed while cars traveled on the road deck above it. In 1978 City government moved to the former Federal Building on Church Street.


2nd Monroe County Court House
Designed by architect Merwin Austin. The cornerstone was laid in June 1850. The majority of the building was constructed of painted and tanned brick with Omonanda limestone composing the foundation, steps and pavement of the porches. A dome, topped by the statue of Justice completed this beautiful new facility.

Rochester Free Academy Building
In 1873, Andrew Jackson Warner, architect of the Powers Building, designed this High Victorian Gothic red brick building with Neo-Greek decorative motifs, a blue limestone foundation and a slate mansard roof. It is the fourth educational building on this site, designed by Colonel Nathaniel Rochester.

Central Church of Christ
Designed in 1871 by noted 19th century architect Andrew Jackson Warner, this modified Gothic Revival church incorporates Tiffany glass windows.

St. Luke’s Church (Left)
Built in 1824, this Episcopal Church represents the transition from 18th century Colonial or Georgian styles to Gothic Revival. Colonel Nathaniel Rochester attended services and was Warden here.

The City Hall and Free Academy buildings were designed by Andrew Jackson Warner. The Monroe County Courthouse was designed by his son, J. Foster Warner. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

Ebenezer Watts Building (Left)
This Greek Revival House was probably designed in 1827 by Capt. Daniel Loonan for Ebenezer Watts, Rochester’s first copper and tin smith. It is the oldest City building still standing on its original site.