Historic Allegany County

A visit to Allegany County, NY is like a walk through American history. Allegany County, located in New York State's Southern Tier, approximately 90 miles south of Rochester, home to about 50,000 citizens in 29 townships, 10 villages and numerous hamlets.

Gradually, Europeans ventured into the area, exploring and settling. In 1782 Moses Van Campen, a frontiersman and scout for American Revolutionary forces, was captured by the Seneca and forced to run the gauntlet in Caneadea. He did and survived the run so bravely that he eased the ordeal for the others in his party.

In 1795, Nathaniel Dyke, a member of Washington's staff, built a home in what is now Elm Valley near Wellsville. Near Angelica, Phillip Church, nephew to Alexander Hamilton, owned thousands of acres of land and built Villa Belvidere, an outstanding example of Federal architecture.

In the years after the Revolution, veterans of General Sullivan's Army, and other settlers began to move into the Genesee River Valley. In 1806 Allegany County was created by an act of the State Legislature. At that time, the county's population was just a few hundred people, but that would grow to 30,000 by 1860.

In the first half of the 19th century, timbering, leather tanning and agriculture were the primary businesses of the county. These were so important that the Genesee Valley Canal was built through a number of the towns to transport the wood and agricultural products to northern points. In 1811 a Turnpike Road from Angelica to Olean was constructed and linked with the existing Turnpike Toll Road from Bath to Angelica. This was for years a main thoroughfare, and gave great stimulus to the growth of Angelica by putting it on one of the great routes to the great west. You can expierence this historic road as you drive Route 2 and 20. Later, railroads, such as the Erie in 1851, also provided transportation.

ßMany of the county citizens were antislavery and supportive of the efforts of the Underground Railroad which wound its way north, down the Genesee River the length of the county and beyond. Two documented stations are still standing in Almond and Belfast with many supposed stations scattered in other towns.

Also, in the 1850s, an antislavery political group, the future Republican Party, was organized. Angelica and Friendship both claim to be the "birthplace" of the Republican Party. Friendship may have held the first Republican caucus in 1854 with Angelica holding the first Republican Convention that fall.

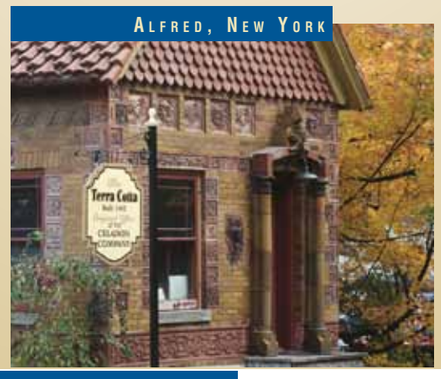
During the Civil War, over 3,700 Allegany County men served in the Union Forces. They fought at Gettysburg, in the battle of the Wilderness, and in numerous other battles where approximately 600 men were killed during these conflicts. Today there are 1,400 Civil war veterans buried in cemeteries all over Allegany County, and we are finding more all the time.

During and after the war, heavy industry grew with many facilities located in the Wellsville area. The oil boom of the late 1800s and again in the 1920s brought great prosperity to the southern part of Allegany County. This gave rise to many "spin off" industries such as oil refineries, steam turbine manufacturing, pipeline supply businesses and narrow gauge railroads serving the oil fields. In the 20th century, many people of Allegany County served their country in World Wars I and II and other conflicts. They also suffered through the Great Depression, as did the entire country. Yet, in the last half of the 20th century, industry and retail business grew and prospered.

Come and visit Allegany County. Explore our many museums, historic buildings and districts, and 200 year old cemeteries where you can find some of the names of the men and women who, from humble environs, helped to carve a nation out of the wilderness. Check out our calendar link at www.discoverallegheanycounty.com for historic lectures at the local universities or step into history in September at our Civil War Re-enactment in Angelica. Walk through our shared American History in Allegany County.

Friendship, New York

Alfred, New York



Angelica, New York

Allegany COUNTY New York

The Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce and Office of Tourism
Crossroads Commerce Center
6087 State Rt. 19N, Belmont, NY 14813

Historic Allegany County

For all seasons

Allegany COUNTY New York

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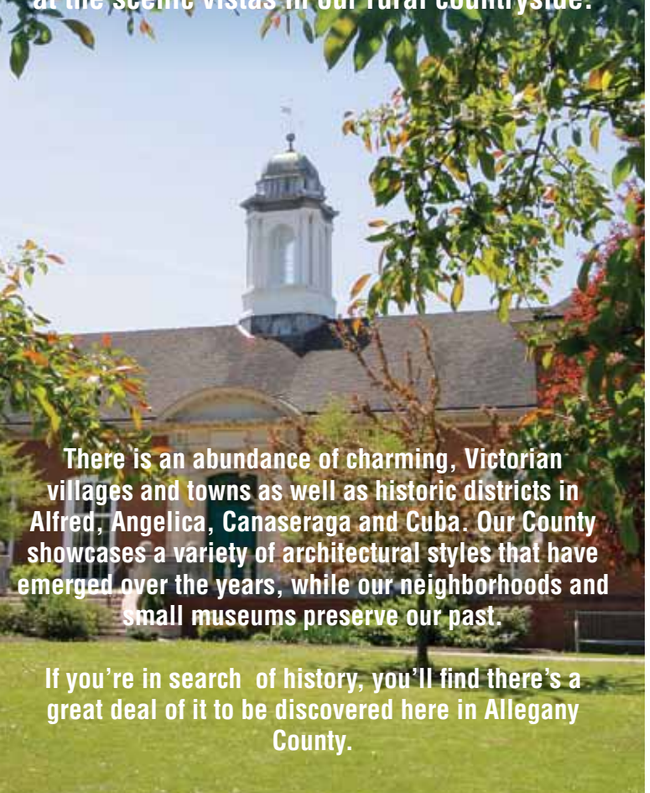
Allegany COUNTY New York

Our County's History

is a colorful one, from our Native American heritage to the Seneca Oil Springs, the site of the first oil discovery on the continent. Allegany County citizens are diverse in background and heritage. Enjoy the ambience of our unique villages and hamlets, or marvel at the scenic vistas in our rural countryside.



There is an abundance of charming, Victorian villages and towns as well as historic districts in Alfred, Angelica, Canaseraga and Cuba. Our County showcases a variety of architectural styles that have emerged over the years, while our neighborhoods and small museums preserve our past.

If you're in search of history, you'll find there's a great deal of it to be discovered here in Allegany County.

Museums

Alfred Ceramics Museum
2 Pine Street, Alfred, NY 14802
607-871-2421

Alfred University Archives
Alfred, NY 14802
607-871-2385

Allegany County Historical Society & Museum
11 Greenwood Street
Andover, NY 14806
607-478-5390

Andover Historical Society & Museum
607-478-5298

Angelica Library Colonial Room
Main Street
Angelica, NY 14709
585-466-7860

Baker's Bridge Historical Association of Alfred Station
5971 Hamilton Hill Rd.
Alfred Station, NY 14803
www.bakersbridge.org
607-587-9018

Bare Knuckle Boxing Hall of Fame
5 West Hughes St
Belfast, NY 14711
585-610-3326
bareknuckleboxinghalloffame.com

Belfast Historical Society
Main Street, Belfast, NY 14711

Bolivar Library BRAG Room
390 Main St., Bolivar, NY 14715
585-928-2377

Bolivar Pioneer Oil Museum
417 Main St., Bolivar, NY 14715
585-928-1752

Canaseraga Historical Society
Main St., Canaseraga, NY 14822

Canaseraga Museum Jail
Main St., Canaseraga, NY 14822

Canaseraga Shawmut Station & Museum
193 Ames Nichols Road
Canaseraga, NY 14822
607-545-6527

Ceres Schoolhouse Museum
Route 417, Ceres, NY 14721

Cuba Cheese Museum
12 W. Main St., Cuba, NY 14727
585-209-5512
cubacheesemuseum.org

Cuba Military Museum
33 Genesee St., Cuba, NY 14727
585-968-3679

Cuba Museum
16 Genesee St., Cuba, NY 14727
585-209-5512

Dyke Street Museum Wellsville Historical Society
118 Dyke St., Wellsville, NY 14895
585-593-1404 or 3969

Friendship Library Baxter Room
40 West Main Street
Friendship, NY 14739
585-973-7724

Hagadorn House Museum
7 South Main St.
Almond, NY 14804
607-276-6324

Independence Historical Society
540 Main Street
Whitesville, NY 14897
607-356-3536

Ortlip Art Gallery @ Houghton College
1 Willard Avenue
Houghton, NY 14744
585-567-9421

Richburg-Wirt History Society
243 Main Street
Richburg, NY 14774
585-928-9478

Rushford Museum
8982 Main Street
Rushford, NY 14777
585-437-2533

Scio Historical Group & Memorial Library
3980 Main Street
Scio, NY 14880

Town of Hume Museum
10842 Claybed Road
Hume, NY 14745
585-567-8399
www.humetown.org

Town of Willing Museum
Willing Town Hall, Route 19 South
Wellsville, NY 14895
585-593-6145

Other Points of Interest

Allegany County Agricultural Society
Allegany County Fair
Angelica, NY 14709
585-593-8642

Davis Memorial Carillon
Alfred University Campus
Alfred, NY 14802

The Horn Room Village Hall
Belmont, NY 14813

Pittsburgh Shawmut & Northern Railroad Historical Society Exhibit
Allegany County Fairgrounds,
Angelica, NY
By appointment 1-585-593-1470

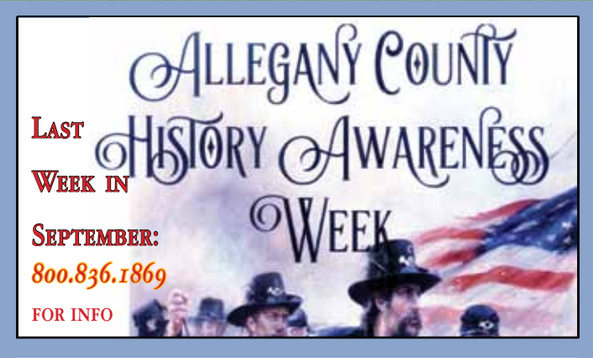
Seneca Oil Spring
Cuba Lake Road
Cuba, NY 14727
585-268-9293

Southern Tier Antique Equipment Society, Inc.
585-365-2409

Stull Observatory
Alfred University Campus
Alfred, NY 14802
607-871-2270

The Terra Cotta
Main Street
Alfred, NY 14803

Cover Image: Alfred, New York
at left: Wellsville, New York



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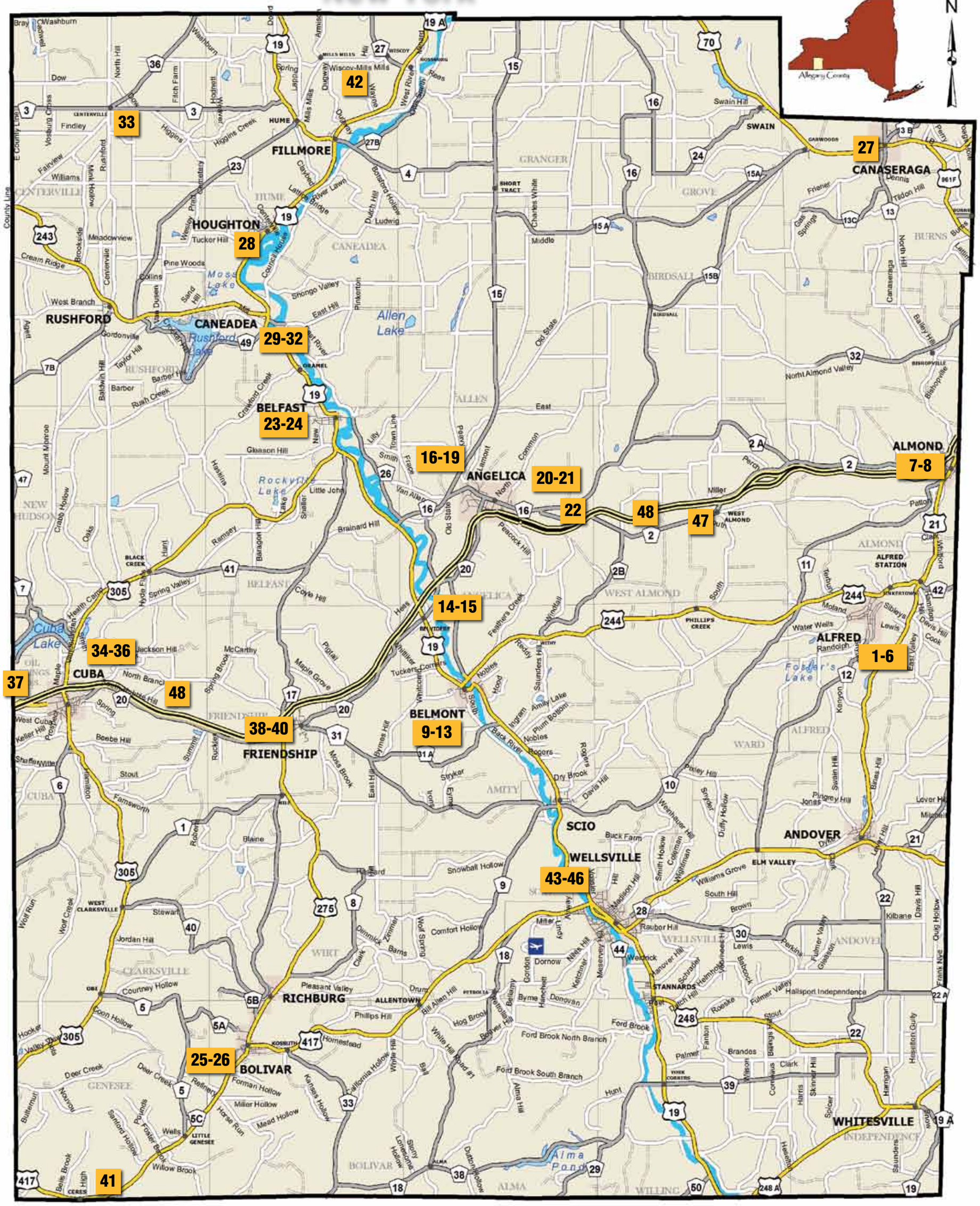
Allegany COUNTY
New York

Map Legend

- Genesee River
- Streams
- Lakes - 5 Acres Plus



Allegany County buildings and districts on the national register and other historic points of interest.

Includes date of construction

1. **1818, Alfred Village Historic District,** downtown Alfred
2. **1851, Alumni Hall,** Alfred, near the Alfred University Quad next to the Herrick Library
3. **1890, Fireman's Hall,** West University Street, Alfred
4. **1876, The Allen Steinheim Museum,** Alfred, on AU Campus near Carillon
5. **1893, Terra Cotta,** Alfred, North Main Street near the stop light across from US Post Office
6. **Alfred University Structures** Alfred, Village Park
7. **Hagadorn House,** Almond, corner of Karr and Main
8. **Linderman House,** Almond, on Route 21 just north of the Village
9. **1860, Belmont Grange,** Belmont, 32 Willets Avenue
10. **1890, Belmont Hotel,** Belmont, 40-48 Schuyler Street
11. **1893, Belmont Literary & Historical Society Free Library,** Belmont, 2 Willets Avenue
12. **Veterans Monuments Walking Tour,** Belmont, throughout the Village of Belmont
13. **Willets Estate Mansion,** Belmont, on South Street
14. **1860, Episcopal Church,** Belvidere, on CR 20 just west of NY 19
15. **1804, Church Mansion,** Belvidere, on CR 20 just east of NY 19
16. **Angelica Park Circle Historic District,** Angelica, downtown park
17. **1819, Old Allegany County Courthouse,** Angelica, Park Circle
18. **Episcopal Church,** Angelica, on the Park Circle
19. **1845, Fair Grounds,** Angelica, just off East Main Street
20. **1804, Until the Day Dawns Cemetery,** Angelica
21. **1809, Moses Van Campen House,** Angelica, House is located east of Village on CR 16
22. **Allegany County Poor House,** Angelica, on CR 2 east of Village of Angelica
23. **1853, Rail & Titsworth Canal Warehouse,** Belfast, Hughes Road, west side of Belfast
24. **John L Sullivan Training Barns, Museum and Bare Knuckle Boxing Hall of Fame,** Belfast, downtown
25. **1885, Bolivar Free Library,** Bolivar, 390 Main Street
26. **Oil Industry,** Bolivar, downtown Bolivar next to museum
27. **Canaseraga Four Corners Historic District,** Canaseraga, Main & Church Street Corners
28. **Copperhead/Moses Van Campen Monument,** Houghton, Houghton College Campus
29. **1903, Caneadea Bridge,** Caneadea, East Hill Road
30. **Caneadea Dam,** Route 243 & Dam Road
31. **Canal Turn Around Basin,** Oramel, just north of hamlet on Route 19
32. **Genesee Canal & Hotel,** Oramel, downtown
33. **1859, Centerville Town Hall,** Centerville, Fairview Road
34. **1835, Main Street Historic District,** Cuba, downtown
35. **1840, South Street Historic District,** Cuba, downtown
36. **1905, McKinney Stables of Empire City Farms,** Cuba, Route 275 south of Village
37. **Seneca Oil Spring,** at County Park
38. **1835, Wellman House,** Friendship, Main Street
39. **1912, Friendship Free Library,** Friendship, Main Street
40. **Hatch House,** Friendship, East Main Street
41. **1893, Ceres School,** Ceres
42. **Wiscoy Mill & Falls,** just west of the Hamlet of Wiscoy
43. **1931, Post Office,** Wellsville, Pearl Street
44. **1911, Wellsville Erie Depot,** Wellsville, Depot Street
45. **David A. Howe Library,** Wellsville, Main Street
46. **Pink House,** Wellsville, West State Street
47. **1861, Community Center/ Town Hall,** West Almond, on CR 2 in the Hamlet of W. Almond
48. **1811 Turnpike Road,** Route 20 Cuba to Friendship & CR 2 Angelica to West Almond

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce and Office of Tourism

Crossroads Commerce Center
6087 St. Rt. 19N, Belmont, NY 14813
585·268·7190 1-800-836-1869
tourism@alleganychamber.org

www.discoverallegheny county.com