



An old wood barn still standing along side a country road in the Town of Victory, New York.

Historic and Cultural Resources

There are a few active historical societies and museums in northern Cayuga County. The Civic Heritage Historical Society and new History Center in Cato offers history and garden tours for sites in four towns including Victory, Cato, Ira and Conquest. The Frontenac Historical Society and Museum in Union Springs offers exhibits dedicated to local history and culture. The Old Brutus Historical Society in Weedsport is dedicated to preserving the history of the Brutus and Weedsport region of Central New York State with an old time kitchen exhibit, a rural one-room schoolhouse, a cabin of a canal boat, craftsman tools, farm tools, and items that were once manufactured in the area. The Society also maintains extensive genealogy files, containing lineage data on many of the local families. The Little Red School House Museum is located on Route 104 in Sterling with a blacksmith shop, Native American artifacts, and a railway display.

In the Hamlet of Victory, once a bustling center of community life, several architecturally impressive historic buildings remain, although some are in desperate need of rehabilitation. The scale, style, details, and setting of some of these structures is reflective and reminiscent of a former prosperous and culturally vibrant era in this rural-agrarian village center. Since the mid-twentieth century, the lively social and commercial daily activity that once characterized the hamlet center has all but disappeared along with much of the hamlet structure and form due to losses brought by fire and deterioration. Changes in scale in the regional economy have left almost ghostly remnants of the former economic and cultural vibrancy at the intersection of Route 370 at Route 38. The surrounding agrarian landscape, with its open, gently rolling tilled fields, nineteenth century farmhouses, and classic wood barns remains a picturesque setting much as it existed long ago.

Sadly, many of the historic homes and buildings in the Town of Victory have been lost over the years due to a lack of maintenance, or fire damage. These include the Hager home and store, the old Town Hall (a Baptist Church) on East Street., the Grand Hotel on State Road, the old Methodist parsonage and the old barn behind the church, the old town barn on East Street, and several old family residences in the hamlet and throughout the town. The John Chapman homestead, built some time during the mid-nineteenth century, remains on State Road in the Hamlet of Victory although the historic building suffered a fire in the early 1970's, in addition to the effects of a lack of maintenance deterioration over time.



The John Chapman homestead on State Road in the hamlet of Victory in 2008, and c. early 1900s.

Several historic buildings remain in the Hamlet of Victory today and there are four state historical markers in the town honoring the early settlements of Victory. A long lost historic marker once stood just south of the Village honoring the first settlement of the Town in 1800 by John McNeal and John Martin, and the Village settled by James Gregory in 1806. The 1838 cobblestone house at the Village four corners was once used as Victory Academy. A mill site remains in North Victory, and a c.1816 church in the Hamlet of Westbury. Although the historic cobblestone house in the Hamlet of Victory has been recognized with a state historic marker, none of the historic buildings in the hamlet, or throughout the Town of Victory, have yet been nominated to, or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Knights of the Maccabees (KOTM) was established in a building called the Tent, c.1880. The KOTM was an early benevolent group which sold insurance to a man for “his wife and orphan” that they may be taken care of upon his death. In 1910, this building held the Grange Hall and was deeded to the town in 2004. Today the old Grange Hall (below right) is used as Town of Victory Museum and History Center, a small community space dedicated to the preservation and display of local historical memorabilia and records.





Churches in the community include Victory Methodist Church (above) in the Hamlet of Victory where a small community playground is located, Grace Baptist Church and Westbury Community Church (below) in Westbury, the Armor of Light Baptist Church, and the North East Christian Center (a private campground/retreat facility).



Historic Cemeteries in the Town of Victory include Victory Union Cemetery, Cummings Road Cemetery, VanHooser Burial Ground, Westbury Cemetery on Westbury Road (below), and the French Settlement Cemetery on Bell Road c. early 1800s (bottom photo).





Free Grace Baptist Church in the Hamlet of Westbury.



Northeast Christian Center camp and conference center located on 107 acres on Jones Road



Cabins of the Armour of Light Ranch Family Ministries is located on 50 acres on State Route 38 in the Hamlet of Victory.



A private air field is located on Maroney Road.

Various sites of historic interest are located throughout the Town of Victory. The former Jean G. Butts farm, although it has not retained its historic character is located at the corner of Rt. 38 and Schuler Road. Butts Tree Moving Company was noted for an early designed and patented process for moving grown trees, and planted trees in March of 1955 at the newly acquired country home of President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Gettysburg, PA. Victory and Westbury retain historic structures and landscapes today that contribute to the unique rural historic character of the Town, and serve as a reminder of the once vibrant life of these small settlements.



Some buildings with some historic character still in tact include the Old Victory Schoolhouse, c.1850 on East Street (Old State Road) (above left), and Thompson School #12 on Route 38 north of the hamlet (above right).



At left, an old house in the Hamlet of Victory is just one example of the many historic resources in the Town that should be documented and preserved where possible.