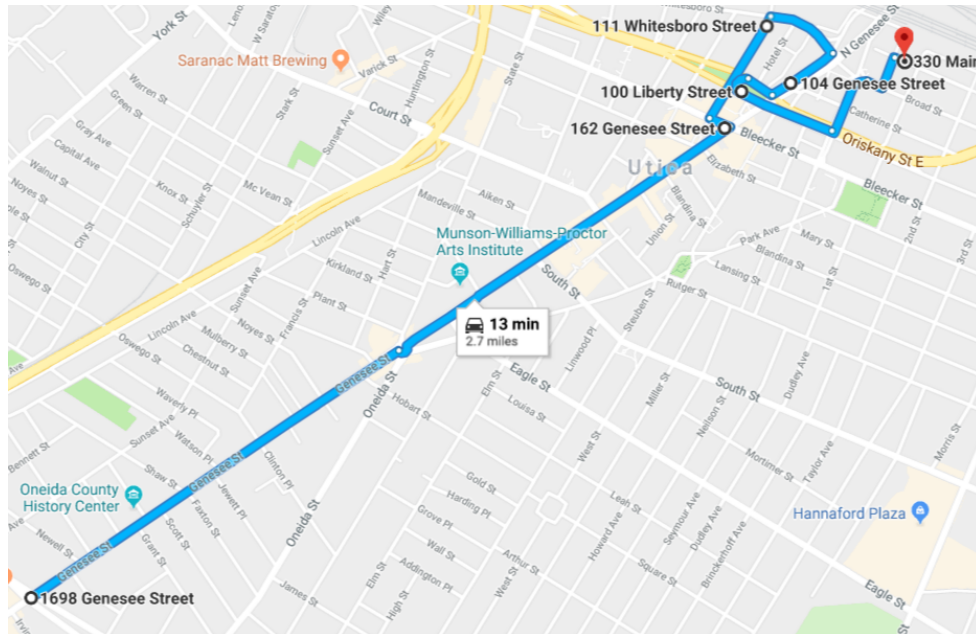




Itinerary 4: Olmsted Era Downtown



Starting point: the intersection of the Parkway and Genesee Street
Approximate driving time, 15 minutes, exclusive of stops

You might consider parking in the vicinity of the Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute (stop 3) and walking the rest of this Itinerary, which will take approximately one hour, exclusive of stops.

- 1. The Olbiston Apartment, purportedly the largest brownstone between New York and Buffalo,** is located at the corner of Genesee Street and Clinton Place. It was built in the late 1890s as luxury housing with 8-room apartments (each with a maid's entrance) and a fashionable rooftop café-restaurant open to the public. Although it was not designed by an architect of particular note, it is nevertheless one of the most distinctive local buildings that survives from the Olmsted era.
- 2. Oneida Square, home to Utica's Soldiers and Sailors Monument (1891),** commemorates the Union victory in the US Civil War. The female statue on top, symbolizing the city of Utica, points soberly toward the south as her other hand holds a sword to the north. It is surrounded by symbols of the various armed services that served in the war, along with reliefs in bronze. It was the creation of Boston sculptor Karl Gerhardt (1853-1940), whose first work so impressed Mark Twain that he sent Gerhardt to study at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Gerhardt created a number of other Civil War commemorative statues, including several on the Gettysburg

battlefield, as well as a bust of Mark Twain for Twain's Connecticut home and the death mask of President Grant, but none of these works were as elaborate as the Utica Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- 3. The Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute (MWPAl), incorporated and endowed by Thomas and Maria Proctor in 1919.** Although neither of MWPAl's structures on Genesee Street date from Utica's Olmsted Era (1900-30), it was originally incorporated in 1919 by Thomas and Maria Proctor, who were responsible for bringing Olmsted to Utica. MWPAl's main campus on Genesee Street consists of two elements. First, Fountain Elms [LINK], formerly the residence of Thomas R. Proctor's brother, Frederick (for whom F.T. Proctor Park is named), which is now dedicated to the decorative arts. Its first floor offers recreations of four rooms as they were when the Proctor family occupied this home, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Second, MWPAl's museum of art [LINK] was designed by internationally-renowned architect Philip Johnson (1906-2005). A model of this building was exhibited in the United States Pavilion at the World's Fair in Brussels in 1958, and the finished structure gained international attention (and even the editorial cartoonist of the *New Yorker* magazine [LINK]) when it was opened in 1960. Both structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 4. The Utica Public Library (1903), an elegant early twentieth century civic structure associated with the Proctor family** (which donated the land on which it sits), is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Take note of the elegant coffered, barrel-ceilinged main lobby in the Utica Public Library, the charming Doolittle Memorial Fountain (1923), and the translucent floors in the library stacks, which were meant to maximize natural illumination. This library was designed by the New York City firm of Carrère and Hastings, the architects of the famous New York Public Library main branch on Fifth Avenue, the Henry Clay Frick House (now the Frick Collection), and the Cannon House of Representatives Office Building and Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. The Carrère and Hastings architect of this building, Arthur C. Jackson (1866-1941), was a native Utican who played a significant role in the design of the Fifth Avenue library; he also designed many luxury homes in and around New York City, including "Lasata," the childhood summer home of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and "Briar Patch," a home listed on the National Register of Historic Places that sold for \$140m in 2014, both in East Hampton.
- 5. The Stanley Performing Arts Center (1928), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the work of celebrated architect Thomas W. Lamb (1871-1942),** the preeminent designer of silent movie palaces, much of whose work has been lost, most notably the Fox Theatre in San Francisco, and the Capitol Theater, the third Madison Square Garden, and the Ziegfeld Theater in Manhattan. Among his most notable surviving works are the Boston Opera House, the Paramount Hotel in Manhattan, Baltimore's Hippodrome, and the Ohio Theatre in Columbus; the only other remaining Lamb-designed theaters in upstate New York are the Landmark Theater in Syracuse and Proctor's Theater in Schenectady. The 2,963-seat Stanley is virtually the twin of the Ohio Theater in Columbus, which completed only months before the Stanley and is considered one of the best surviving examples of Lamb's work. The exteriors of the two buildings are quite different—the Ohio has a rather sedate neoclassical façade, whereas the Stanley has a more fanciful baroque one—but their interiors are almost identical. The Stanley's ornate Mexican baroque interior—complete with gold-leaf-covered angels, cherubs, and twisting columns, and a sweeping multi-level lobby—was painstakingly restored to its original glory in the decades after it almost fell to the wrecking ball in 1974. Tours of its interior are available during regular business hours.

6. **The Fort Schuyler Club (founded 1883), an American urban “gentlemen's club”** (albeit one of which women can now join) of the sort found in industrial centers throughout the country in that period. The nucleus of the facility is a home built in 1830 onto which later additions were added. Among its members were New York governor and 1868 Democratic presidential nominee Horatio Seymour, Supreme Court Justice Ward Hunt, and Elihu Root, who served as a United States Senator, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State. Thomas R. Proctor, who recruited Olmsted to design Utica’s park and parkway system, was its president for a total of 16 years. For generations, this served as one of the centers of business, political, and civic life in Utica—and as a place where deals promoting Utica’s redevelopment were struck in the aftermath of the departure of the textile mills, it was featured in a famous article about Utica published in *Fortune* magazine in 1948. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
7. **The former New Century Club (founded 1893) was dedicated to civic engagement and the cultural enrichment of local women** and to providing a forum in which women—at least middle-class women—were able to discuss the issues of the day. Located across the street from the Fort Schuyler Club, its historically male counterpart civic organization, the New Century Club was also built as a private residence, decades before it became the home of a private club, and it is likewise listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
8. **The former Savings Bank of Utica (1900), now the M&T Bank, was built according to a design commissioned by the Proctors**, who were inspired by churches they visited during one of their European tours—making the Savings Bank a temple of commerce. It bears some resemblance to the seventeenth century Church of Santa Maria della Salute in Venice. It was designed by British-born architect Robert W. Gibson (1854-1927), who was trained at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. Gibson designed several noteworthy buildings in New York City, including the West End Collegiate Church, the Martha Washington Hotel (now the Redbury Hotel), and the Botanical Museum at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx (now known as the LuEsther T. Mertz Library). His best-known work is the Morton F. Plant House, better known after 1917 as the flagship Manhattan store of Cartier jewelers, one of the last surviving structures on Fifth Avenue that comprised “Millionaire’s Row” in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The M&T Bank building is surmounted by a dome covered in 23 carat gold leaf, and along the perimeter of the dome on the interior of the bank are murals painted by Frederick Augustus Marshall. Gibson also designed Genesee Towers, stop 15 in this itinerary.
9. **Grace Episcopal Church (1860), the parish of the Proctor family**, was built with the patronage of Maria Proctor’s grandfather, Alfred Munson, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was designed by Richard Upjohn (1802-78), the first president of the American Institute of Architects and designer of many renowned buildings, including Trinity Church, located at the foot of Wall Street in Manhattan. Note the handsomely-executed marble tomb effigy of Rachel Proctor (1850-1915), the sister of Maria Proctor and wife of Frederick T. Proctor, in the north (or left) transept of the church interior.
10. **The 14-story Romanesque-style Adirondack Bank Building, formerly the First National Bank (1926)**, for many years the tallest structure in Utica, was designed by the New York firm of York and Sawyer (1898-1949). York and Sawyer also designed a number of prominent structures in Manhattan, including the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the New-York Historical Society on Central Park West, the Bowery Savings Bank Building on forty-second street, and the New York Athletic Club on Park Avenue, as well as the Herbert Hoover Commerce Building in Washington’s Federal Triangle and a number of buildings on the campus of Vassar College.

- 11. The former Robert Fraser Department Store (1907), at one time Utica's premier locally-owned retail emporium,** is next to the Adirondack Bank Building. Fraser's was founded by a Scottish immigrant who worked his way up from very limited resources—a classic Victorian success story—and it once featured an elegant tea room on the top floor. It was later acquired, in 1939, by the F.W. Woolworth Company as a triumphant marketing showcase in the city in which Frank Woolworth had opened his first store—and failed—in 1878. Today, it is home to the online educational division of Utica College.
- 12. The Hotel Utica (1912),** recently restored by Hilton Doubletree, is located on Lafayette Street, one block to the west of Genesee Street. The hotel was designed by the regionally prolific Buffalo architectural firm of Esenwein & Johnson, which was also responsible for the design of the Temple of Music (1901), the structure at the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo at which President William McKinley was fatally shot in 1901. Famous guests of the Hotel Utica include: Judy Garland, Mickey Mantle, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, popular western movie star Hopalong Cassidy, Mae West, Bobby Darin, and US vice president Dick Cheney. Originally built with 10 stories, an additional 4 were added in 1926.
- 13. Genesee Towers (1904), Utica's first "skyscraper"**—at ten stories—was originally home of the City National Bank. It was designed by Robert W. Gibson, who was also the architect of Utica's "bank with the gold dome," the former Savings Bank (stop 10 on this itinerary), in addition to a number of noted structures in New York City, as discussed in stop 9.
- 14. Union Station (1914), Utica's palatial railroad station,** built in the beaux arts style when American railroads were still among the biggest and most vital industrial enterprises in the world; listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was designed for the New York Central Railroad by the firm of Stem and Fellheimer. Alfred T. Fellheimer (1875-1959), one of the two partners in that firm, was the lead architect of Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan. Although reports that the columns lining its waiting room were from the original Grand Central Terminal have never been documented, its 35-foot-high coffered barrel ceiling seems clearly to have been modeled on the main waiting room in the Pennsylvania Station in New York City (demolished in 1963). Built in 1910-14 at a cost of \$1,000,000 (not including the expense of moving the Mohawk River a mile away to protect it and the railroad yard from seasonal flooding), years of neglect after the Second World War resulted in plans to demolish the station in the mid-1970s. Local preservationists and government came together to save it from the wrecking ball, and after acquiring it in 1978, Oneida County launched a long process, ultimately costing over \$15,000,000, to restore the building; these efforts were sufficiently advanced already by 1980 that it was designated as the official station of the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid. The station's name derived from the fact that it served as the unified center of operations for three railroads: the New York Central, the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western, and the New York, Ontario, and Western. In addition to serving today as home to Amtrak, Greyhound, Trailways, and local and regional bus services, the station is the principal station of the Adirondack Scenic Railroad, which runs tours along the former New York Central railroad route to Lake Placid.
- 15. Adjacent to Union Station are a number of other buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places:** the Doyle Hardware (1881, expanded in 1901), John C. Hieber (1893), Utica Daily Press (1905), Hurd & Fitzgerald (1905), and the Frisbie & Stansfield Knitting Company buildings. Along with Union Station, its adjacent railway express building, and the nearby Smith Market, these structures give visitors a sense of what Main Street was like when it was one of Utica's key commercial districts. Also noteworthy is the tiny Bagg's Memorial Building (1933), constructed on the site of historic Bagg's Hotel, which was run for many years by Thomas R.

Proctor. During the depths of the Great Depression of the 1930s, Maria Proctor paid to demolish the hotel on the condition that it did not involve the use of power tools so that laborers would earn as much as possible from the project. In its place this tiny structure was built, and it is surmounted by an eagle sculpture produced by Tiffany Studios.