

Neighborhood Timeline

1890 Electric trolley service started. The Utica Belt Line RR trolley system served the area with lines running from Genesee St. along Lafayette and Columbia St, then up State Street to Lincoln Avenue. Street cars and later buses provided easy access to residents, workers, and shoppers alike. By this time Columbia St. which previously terminated east at Broadway had been extended to meet Genesee St.

By the late 1800s the neighborhood was a mixed use district as evidenced by the listing in the Utica City Directory of 1897. New immigrants groups were arriving and adding to the diversity and vitality of the city. Evidence of West Utica's German population can still be seen in the Witzemberger Building logo. Peter Witzemberger operated a restaurant in the building according to a 1908 map.

Most commercial buildings of the period were brick with heavy timber framing or load bearing walls. Retail storefronts occupied the first floor with rental office and residential space on upper floors.

Popular at the time were commercial/ industrial adaptations of the bracketed Italianate style with decorative window lintels (312 & 458 Columbia St.) and Queen Anne style (Maher Bros. bldg.) with rounded windows heads, elaborate brickwork trim & banding, rustic stone trim, and cornices with upright decorative elements extending above the roof and parapets.



458 Columbia St.- extant



Witzenberger Building Logo-
464 Columbia St.



Maher Bros.-Lafayette St.



Haberer Building - 326-334
Columbia St., Then



Haberer Building- extant



312-316 Columbia
St.- extant

A 1907 atlas listed T.E. Jones and Moak & Haberer as doing business at the buildings on Columbia St that still bear their names.



Jones Building - 336
Columbia St., Then



Jones Building-
extant



Witzenberger Bldg.-
460- 464 Columbia
St.- extant



Utica Maennerchor
Hall - 1893



Utica Opera House



Replaced by Hotel Majestic/Persh-
ing, Hotel Utica, right

With the advent of the canal and commercial/industrial uses the precinct lost its luster as a residential area but provided housing for workers in the nearby mills on Court St & State St., other factories, and the canal. The smaller Columbia, Crystal, Metropolitan, Mansion House, Germania & Coles(extant) Hotels provided modest accommodation for budget minded workers and travelers. Grander hotels such as Hotel Utica, Hamilton, Martin and Yates were located closer to Genesee St. and the train station.

1893 Utica Maennerchor- German musical Society opened a new five story hall on the south side Columbia St. between Broadway and Cornelia St. Jacob Agne Jr. FAIA was the architect. Designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style with three story blind arches, large elaborate dormer elements and stone decoration, it was destroyed by fire in 1901 and rebuilt in 1902.

1895 J.H. Cole built a hotel at 418 Lafayette St. In 1906 Utica Heater built a rear addition for factory use on Carton Place - both buildings are extant

1896 UTICA ATLAS SHOWED THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES:

Lafayette St (then Fayette St.) north side west from Washington St. included:

- Utica Opera House @ east corner Washington (Susan B. Anthony and other national known speakers lectured here, some as guests of the New Century Club)
- Mansion House Stables @ east corner of Broadway
- Hart & Crouse & Germania Hotel @ east corner Cornelia
- Utica Steam Gauge Co. & Cole's Hotel @ west corner of Carton St.
- Freestanding residences to State St.



437 Lafayette St-extant