

History Happened Here



Oswego County has historic sites of national significance, from the French and Indian War at Fort Ontario in Oswego, to the most documented Underground Railroad sites in New York. As you visit the historic sites throughout the county, you'll take a step back in time and gain a better understanding of events that shaped our county's history.

Fort Brewerton/Block House Museum – The original Fort Brewerton was built at the west end of Oneida Lake, and is one of the best-preserved archeological sites of its type. The Iroquois burned down the fort immediately following the war. Fort Brewerton/Block House Museum is the re-creation of the Block House built by Oliver Stevens during the French and Indian War. The museum has Native American exhibits, antique tools, Civil and Revolutionary War artifacts, a painting of the original fort and several artifacts from the Stevens family.

Fort Ontario State Historic Site – In Oswego, during the Battle of Oswego in 1756, Fort Ontario was destroyed in a massive French attack, along with Forts Oswego and George. In 1759, the British returned and re-built Fort Ontario as a star-shaped fortress with 42 mounted cannons on its walls. The last major campaign of the war started at the fort when Sir Jeffery Amherst assembled 12,000 troops in preparation for his successful attack on Montreal in 1760. Playing a prominent role in nine colonial or American wars, Fort Ontario is now restored to its appearance in 1868-1869, due to the common age of the buildings. You will see how the officers and soldiers lived during this time, and witness a rifle demonstration.

H. Lee White Marine Museum – Explore the rich history of Oswego Harbor, America's oldest freshwater port. The museum showcases an array of maritime artifacts including ship models, navigational equipment and nautical-themed paintings. Tour the National Historic Landmark, the U.S. Army LT-5 tugboat, which saw duty during the Normandy Invasion of WWII and is believed to be the only remaining fully operational vehicle of its kind. Also included in your visit will be the Derrick Barge No. 8 and the OMF Ontario, a replica of an 85-foot schooner built by the Oswego Maritime Foundation.

Pratt House Museum - Located in Fulton, NY this Italianate style home was built in 1861 and remained in the Pratt family for over 100 years. In 1979, it became the museum and headquarters of the Friends of History in Fulton, New York, Inc. Listed on the National Historic Register, view exhibits of Fulton's industrial past, a period kitchen, military artifacts and explore genealogy and historic research material.

Richardson-Bates House Museum – A Victorian mansion from the 1800s preserved as the Richardson family knew it, with 95 percent of the original furnishings of the period. Home to the Oswego County Historical Society, the museum displays a vast collection of artifacts, documents, and photographs tracing the significant history of the area.

Safe Haven Museum & Education Center – Dedicated to keeping alive the stories of the 982 refugees from World War II who were allowed into the United States as “guests” of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Housed at Fort Ontario from August 1944 to February 1946, Safe Haven commemorates America's only shelter for Nazi Holocaust survivors.

Oswego Railroad Museum - Dedicated to the historic preservation of railroad history in the Oswego County area. This is depicted through an excellent operating layout of southern Oswego County in the 1950's. You can also browse through their extensive railroad library and view many other model and toy train layouts.

*Enjoy the day exploring
Oswego County's history.*

Choose the museums you are most interested in visiting and let the Oswego County Office of Tourism customize your itinerary. Take a lunch break and dine at one of our fine restaurants overlooking the picturesque Oswego River.

