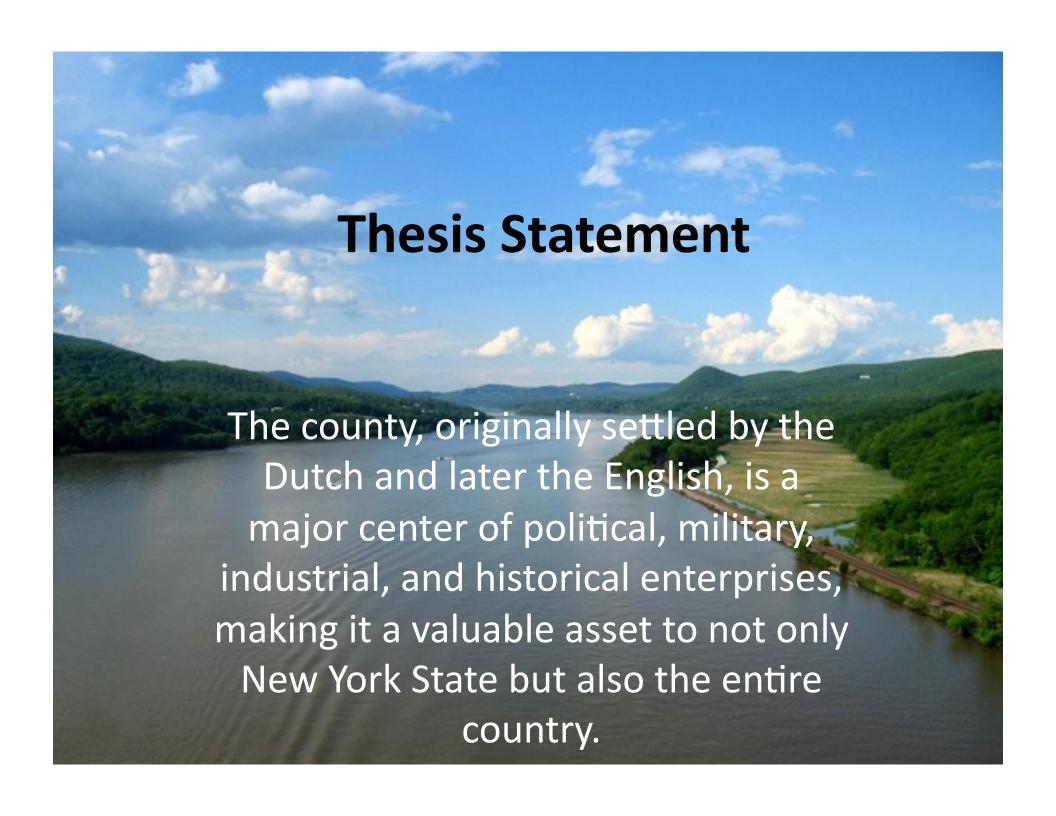


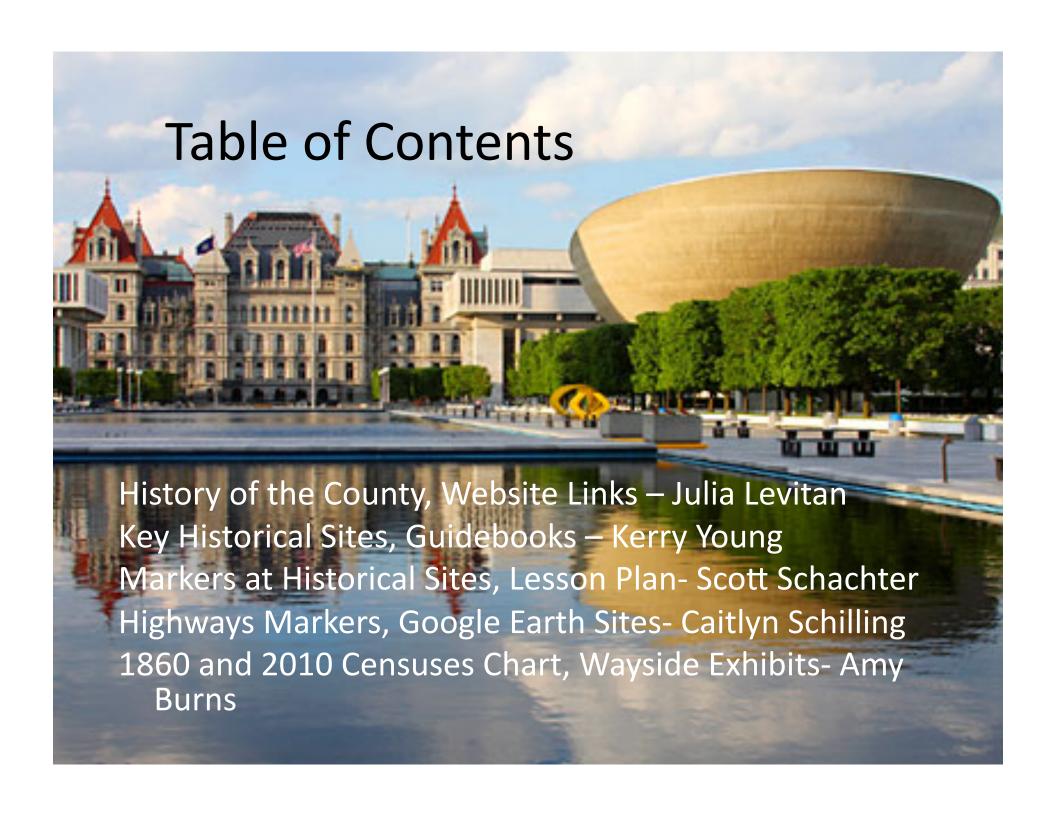




**USS Slater** 



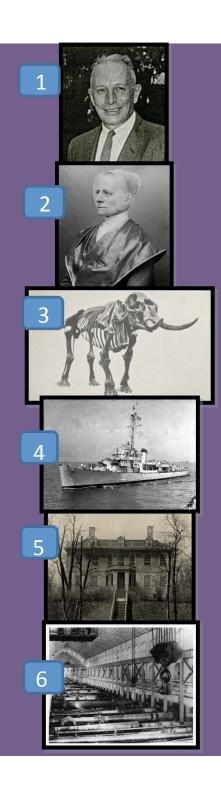




# History of Albany County

- Oldest settlement in the United States
- 1525 Verrazano sails his ship La Dauphine to Castle Island
- <u>1609</u> Henry Hudson sails up the Hudson looking for trade routes
- 1624 French Walloons build Fort Orange in honor of the House of Orange family (royal family of the Netherlands)
- 1629 Dutch West India Company establishes a trading post at Fort Orange (later named the Village of Breverwyck in 1652)
- <u>1664</u> Dutch surrender to the British
- created on November 1, 1683 by New York Governor Thomas Dongan; later confirmed on October 1, 1691
- Albany County's location served as a hotspot during the latter half of the eighteenth century when the French and Indian War and Revolutionary War was taking place.

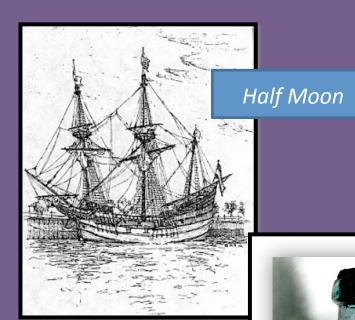




- Erastus Corning II born October 7, 1909;
   elected mayor of Albany in 1941 and served as mayor for eleven more terms until his death in 1983; longest serving mayor of a major American City
- 2. First Shaker Settlement established by Ann Lee; still has the original Shaker meeting house, cemetery, orchard, and neighboring farm still stand in the Town of Colonie
- 3. 1866 found mastodon bones in Cohoes
- 4. USS Slater last WWII Destroyer Escort that remains afloat in the United States; stationed on the Hudson River at Albany
- 5. Build in 1755, the Van Schaick Mansion received such visitors as the likes of George Washington
- 6. Watervliet Arsenal founded in 1813 to help support the war of 1812; continues today as the sole manufacturing facility for large caliber cannons in the United States

## **History Continued**

- Town of Berne Supreme Court Justice Joseph B. Bradley; Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel J. Tilden
- Town of Bethlehem where Henry Hudson's ship Half Moon landed in September of 1609
- Town of Coeymans named after Barent Pieteres Koijemans who purchased the land
- City of Cohoes industrial boom that led to the expansion of 150 in 1840 to over 4,000 ten years later
- Town of Guilderland dates back to the 1700's; included Hamilton Glass Works est. 1775; by 1880 the town had clothing factory, button factory, knitting mill, and grist mill



Hamilton Glass Works

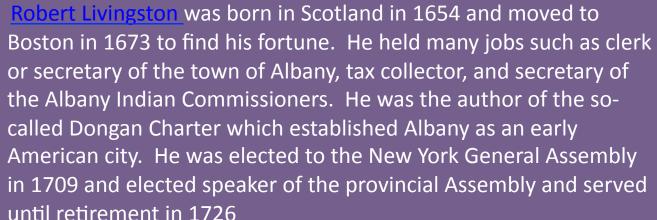
### People in Colonial Albany

1

1) Daughter of Huguenot-ancestry Albany native Catalina De Wandelaer and Albany brewer Leendert Ganssevoort, Sara Gansevoort was the eldest of her siblings, whom she took care of. Unfortunately, over the winter of 1731-32, a sickness (most likely small pox) taking the life of Sara and her younger sister Agnietie.



2) William Bancker Winne was just one of the many visible members of the everyday community. He was well known in the city for holding many part-time jobs that together helped him make ends meet.





4) Samuel Stringer was born in 1734 in Annapolis, Maryland where his father worked as a physician. He later become one as well. During the French and Indian Wars, he moved to Albany where he married Rachel Vanderheyden in 1758. Stringer's education and skill attracted many patients and he was widely known as an innovator who dared to inoculate for smallpox.



# The Van Schaick Mansion



#### Phone:

(518) 235-2699

#### **Email:**

mansion@VanSchaickMansion.org

#### Tours:

Thursdays and Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 PM

#### **Address:**

1 Van Schaick Avenue Cohoes, NY 12047

# Historical Description:

The house was used as military headquarters during the French and Indian War. The mansion later served as military headquarters during the American Revolution. Generals Montgomery, Schuyler, Gates, Stark, Morgan, Gansevoort, St. Clair and Benedict Arnold planned the Battle of Saratoga at the mansion and In the days leading up to the battle, stationed 5,000 continental soldiers around it. At this same time, Colonel Thaddeus Kosciusko constructed the breastworks located on adjacent Peebles Island. General Burgoyne and 20 of his staff officers were brought to the mansion before being returned to Albany as prisoners of war.

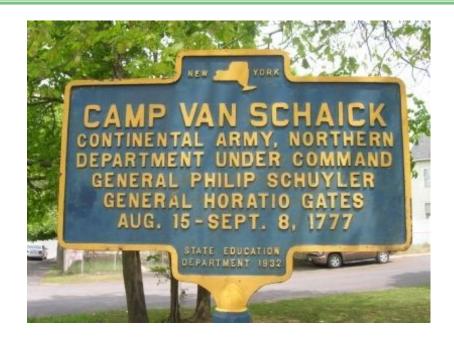
### Directions:

Take I-787 North to Cohoes. Watch for the brown historic marker signs. Turn right on to Bridge Avenue. Go to end of street at the park. Turn left, then right (1/2 block) on to Van Schaick Avenue. The house is two blocks at the bottom of the hill, on the left.

### Van Schaick Mansion

- -Erected 1927 by Cohoes Historical Society
- -Marker is at the intersection of Van Schaick Avenue and Delaware Avenue.

The Van Schaick mansion is one of the most historic homes in New York State. The mansion is located on Van Schaick Island at the junction of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers at Cohoes, New York.





### Van Schaick Mansion

The Van Schaick
Mansion is located in
Cohoes, New York, near the
junction of the Hudson River
and the Mohawk River. The
Mansion is one of the most
historic homes in New York
State. It was built by
Anthony Van Schaick in
1755. Its architecture was
unique at the time since it
was one of the first gambrel
roofs in Upper Hudson.

The Mansion was used as military headquarters during the French and Indian War, and again later during the American Revolution

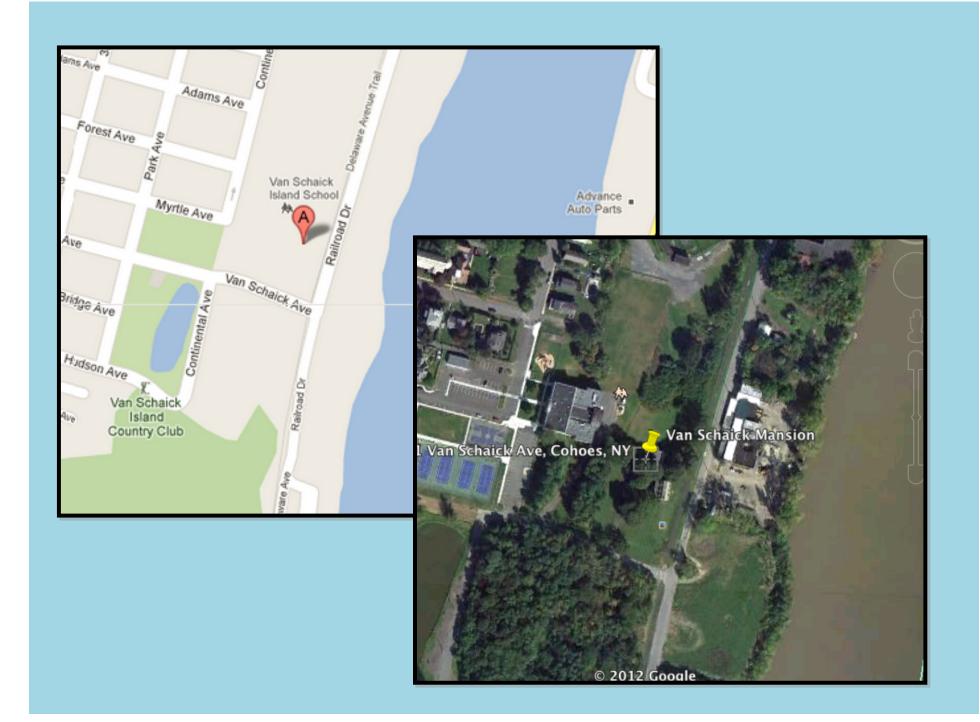
The mansion was the capitol building for four days. Governor Clinton made the house his temporary capitol from August 22-25, 1777.

The house was not left with all its Dutch colonial furnishings, but there are several display collections that change throughout the year.

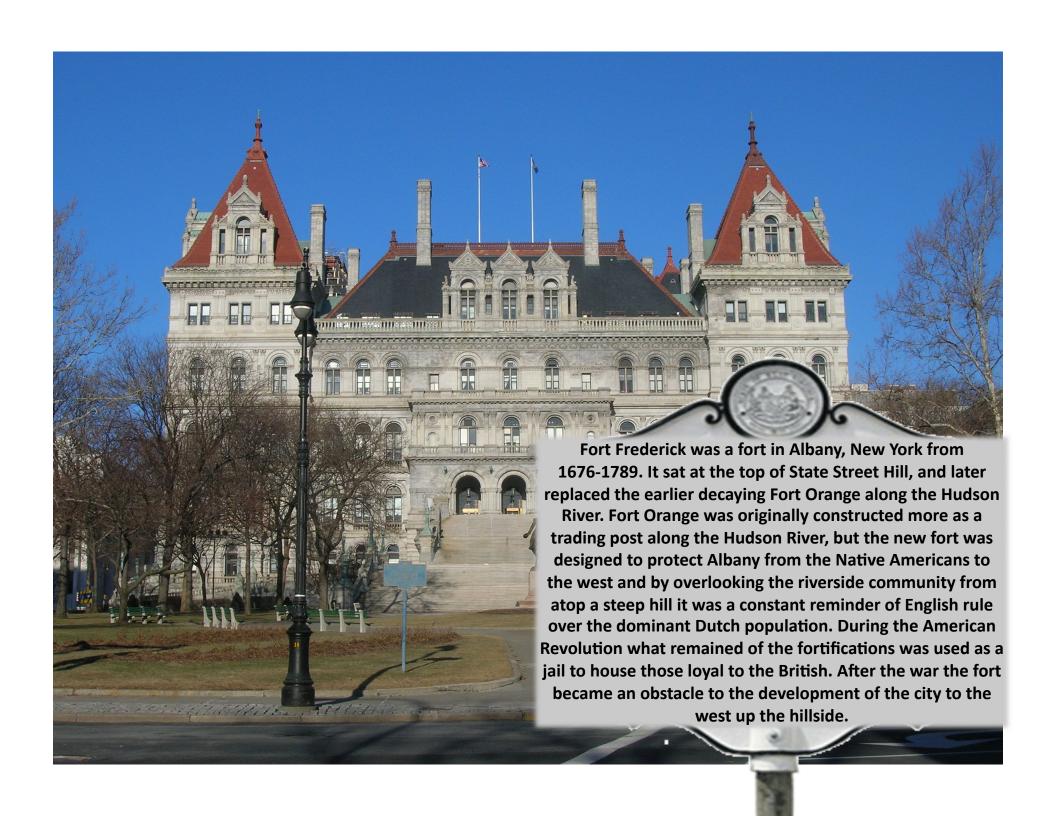
Tours are available in the mansion by appointment. Any size groups are welcomed. The Mansion contains many of its original features, and is a sight to see!

For group tours or more information, contact us by email: info@VanSchaickMansion.org or by phone at: (518) 235-2699









# New York State Capítol



#### For Guide Tours Call:

(518) 474-2418

#### Address:

25 Quackenbush Square, Albany, NY 12207

#### **Tours:**

Available Monday- Friday (excluding holidays!)

# Historical Description:

The present Capitol was constructed between 1867 and 1899. Three teams of architects worked on the design of the Capitol during the 32 years of its construction. The single largest room in the Capitol building is the vast Assembly Chamber. Designed by American architect Leopold Eidlitz, it was the first of the building's "grand spaces" to be completed and occupied. The original Assembly chamber was designed in a Moorish Gothic style and characterized by the period's architectural critic, Henry Van Brunt, as "the most monumental interior in the country".

### Directions:

From the North: Take Interstate 87 (Northway) to Interstate 90 (East) exit, proceed east to Interstate 787 and take Empire Plaza exit. From the South: Take New York State Thruway (Interstate 87) to Exit 23 - straight through Toll Booth to Interstate 787, then take Empire Plaza exit. From the East: Take Interstate 90 and cross Hudson River. Take exit to Interstate 787 South, along river. Take Empire Plaza exit. From the West: Take the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90) to Exit 24 (Albany), proceed east on Interstate 90 to Interstate 787 South, along river. Take Empire Plaza Exit.

Need a Hotel or Restaurant?

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\_Review-g29786-d282090-Reviews-New\_York\_State\_Capitol-Albany\_New\_York.html

### **Fort Frederick**

Fort Frederick stood in Albany County from 1676-1789



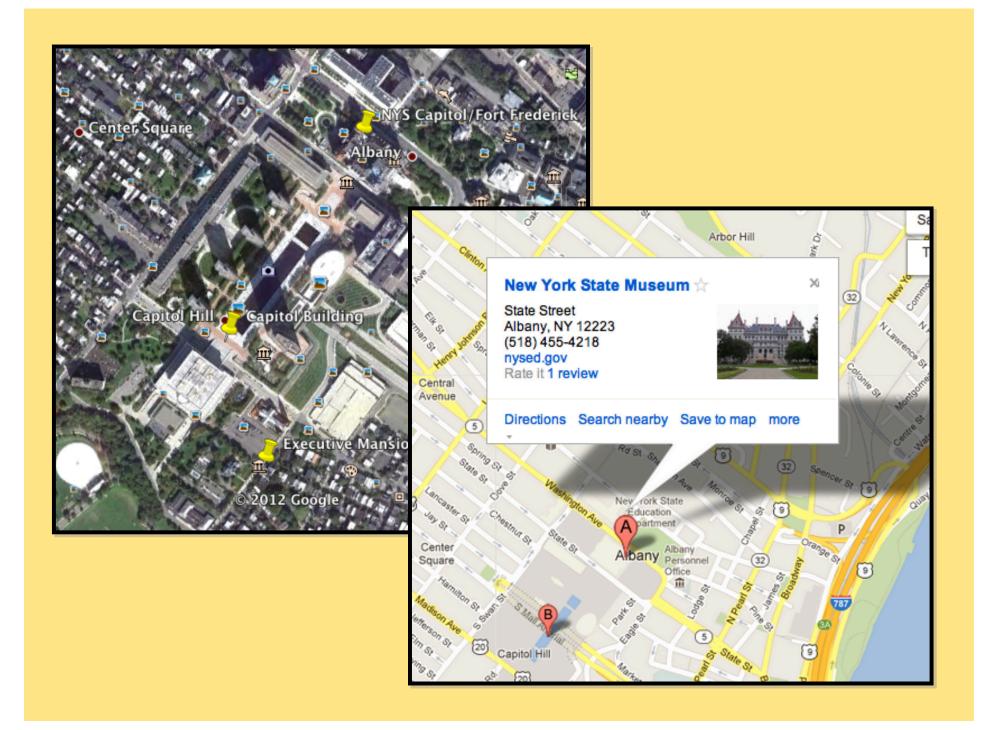


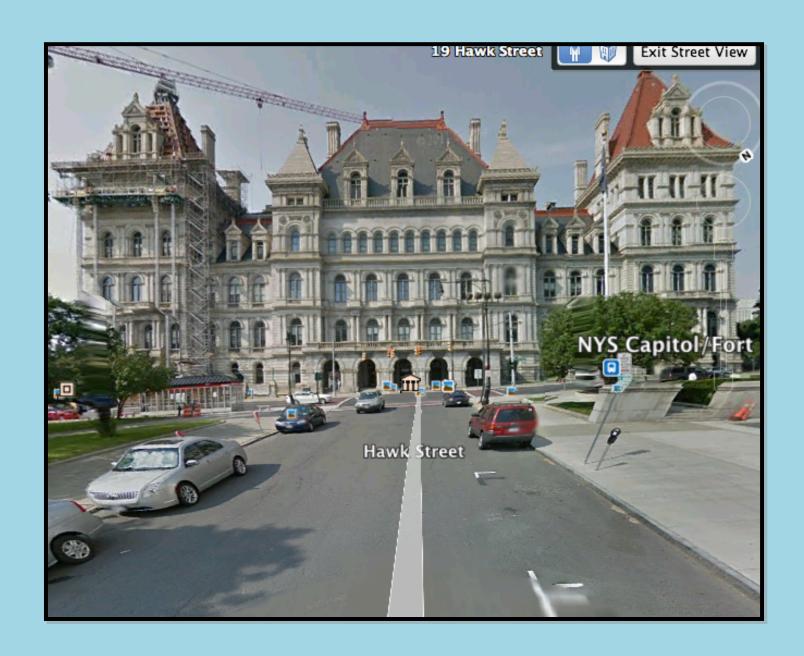
- Frederick Lewis son of King George II
- Housed most troops during Seven Years War
- Used during American Revolution as a jail

# FORT FREDERICK & CAPITOL BUILDING

State Street Hill historic fort and political building Construction of Fort Frederick was started in 1676, in Albany, New York. It was built to replace the Dutch trading fort, Fort Orange (located on the river), that was taken over by the British in 1664. It was rebuilt as a masonry fort between the years of 1702-1735, on State Street Hill. It has been referred to as Fort Albany. For example, in the song "Drums along the Mohawk" in which Fort Albany is mentioned.

The fort was symbolic of Britain's commitment to defend her colonies. The fort lasted throughout the colonial wars, until, in 1785, Albany's Common Council agreed that the fort was no longer needed and should be torn down. The stone left over was taken for other building purposes. Fort Frederick was torn down in 1789, and currently standing in its place is St. Peter's Episcopal Church.







# New York State Executive Mansion



#### Phone:

(518) 473-7521

#### Fax:

(518) 474-0984

#### Address:

138 Eagle St Albany, NY 12202

#### Tours:

Tours are offered September- June Thursdays:10:00 and 11:00 a.m., 12:00, 1:00, and 2:00 p.m. Groups of 10 or more, up to a maximum of 30 visitors (including chaperones).

#### **Admission:**

All tours are free of charge.

Reservations are required and must be made at least two weeks in advance.

# Historical Description:

Since 1875, this house has been home to New York's governors and their families. It is a house that is eclectic in style, filled with history and rich with tradition. It remains a fitting symbol of the variety and greatness of the Empire State.

### Directions:

The New York Executive Mansion is a short walking distance from the Empire State Plaza. Starting on Madison Avenue in front of the State Museum, walk down the street to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and turn right onto Eagle Street. Entrance to the Mansion is through the front center (pedestrian) gate. Parking is not available at the Executive Mansion. Buses may unload passengers at the front gate.

Need a Hotel?

http://www.expedia.com/New-York-State-Executive-Mansion-Hotels.o-l6064371-o.Travel-Guide-Filter-Hotels

# **NYS Governor's Mansion**

- Built in 1875
- > Samuel Tilden first resident
- Housed 31 governors and families
- Located at 138 Eagle St. Albany, NY





# New York State Executive Mansion

The New York State executive mansion is the official residence of the New York State governor. It was originally constructed in 1856 as a private home for a banker. The architecture is based off the Italianate style. In 1875, Governor Samuel Tilden resided in the house. Two years later it was officially purchased by the state. Since then, it has housed 31 governors and their families.

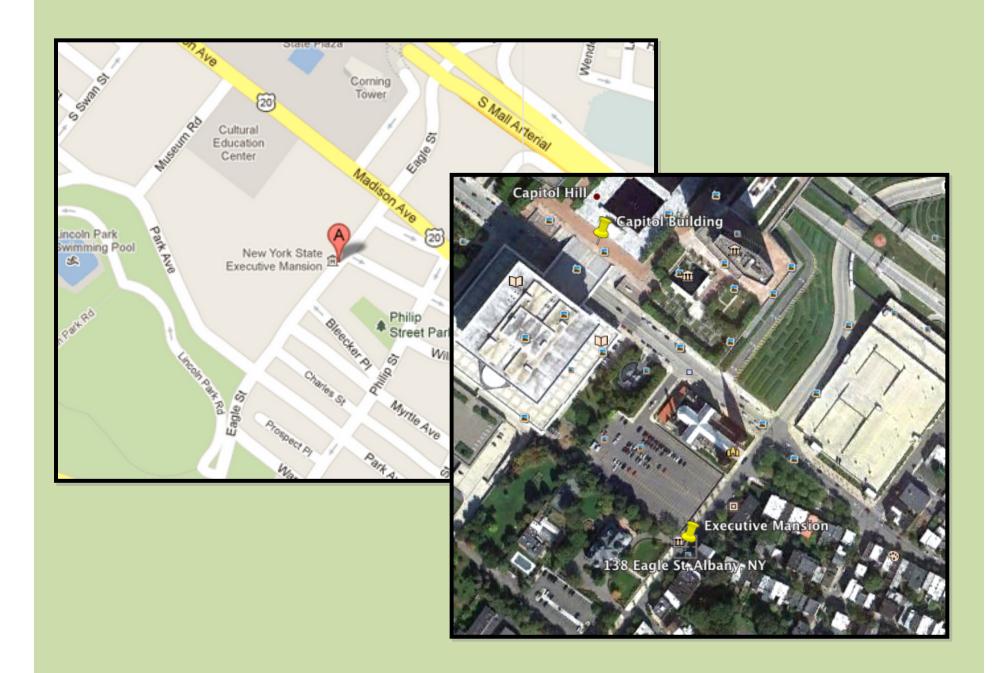
There have been many famous individuals that have lived in the mansion.
Three United States presidents once lived at the house,
Grover Cleveland, Theodore
Roosevelt, and Franklin
Roosevelt. Two vice
presidents, Levi Morton and
Nelson Rockefeller, lived in the mansion at one point as well.

There was a fire in 1961, 473-7521 starting a debate on whether to purchase a newer building uptown or not. Governor Nelson Rockefeller fought to restore the original mansion, and helped to name it to the National Register of Historic Places. In the early 1980s, the Executive Mansion Perseveration Society was established to organize the restoration process.

The mansion is located at 138 Eagle Street, in Albany, NY.
Free guided tours are available through reservations on Thursdays from September to June every hour from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Tours for school groups are welcomed as well!

Contact us at: (518)







## Lesson Plan: Field Trip

(Governors Mansion)

**Pre-Trip:** Students will be aware of different ideas relating to the mansion and its history. Architecture of the building, icons who lived in the mansion, and vocabulary relating to both of those sections will be focused on.

While at the Mansion: A guided tour will be given and the tour guide will go through the history of the mansion. Students will have a handout and they will have to complete a handout. Information will be given chronologically to keep everyone on track.

# Lesson Plan: Field Trip (cont.)

#### **Activity:**



Grade Level: 4-5

#### **Objectives:**

- A guided tour will focus on the history and occupants of the mansion
- The tour will go chronologically through the ages of the mansion Students will learn about some of the people, issues and events which shaped public and private activities at the Executive Mansion

Materials: Writing utensils, activity handout

**Procedure:** a guided tour will be led and students will have to complete it as they are listening to the tour

# **Field Trip Location**

#### **New York State Governors Mansion**

2978 Corning Tower Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12242 (518) 473-7521

- \*Tours are by appointment and appointments have to be made two weeks in advance
- \*Tours are only run on Thursdays at 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, and 2pm







# The USS Slater



#### Phone:

518-431-1943

#### Address:

Broadway and Quay Albany, NY 12202

#### **Open to Visitors:**

April-November, Wednesday-Sunday, 10AM-4PM

Open major holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day

Closed: Easter, Thanksgiving Day

#### Admission:

Adults: \$7

Seniors (65+) \$6

Children 6 -14: \$5

Children 5 and under: Free with family Free admission for new members who join on the day of their visit.

\*\*Admission prices subject to change without notice.\*\*

### Historical Description:

The USS SLATER DE766 is a CANNON class destroyer escort that served in the United States Navy during World War II. One of 563 similar ships constructed between 1943 and 1945, the SLATER is the last destroyer escort remaining afloat in the United States today. Destroyer escorts were built as a result of a critical shortage of anti-submarine vessels in the Atlantic at the outset of World War II. At the request of the British Navy, American designers developed a new type of warship, based on the British HUNT class destroyer, which combined heavy anti-submarine and anti-aircraft weapons with the latest electronic equipment for detecting enemy vessels. In addition, destroyer escorts were designed to be maneuverable, high speed, long ranged vessels that could be built quickly due to their all-welded construction.

### Directions:

#### From the south:

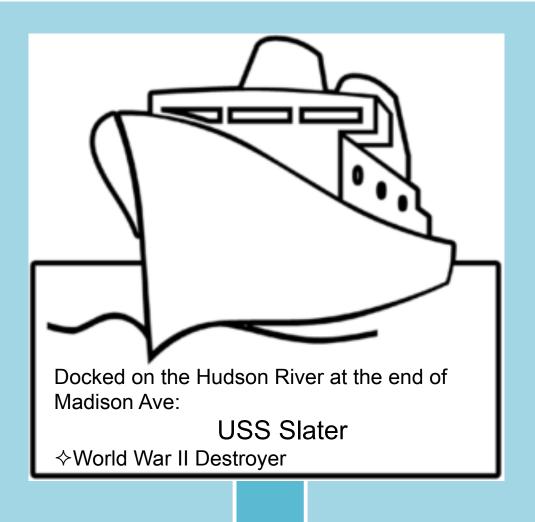
Take I-87 N/NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY N toward ALBANY (portions toll). Merge onto I-787 N via EXIT 23 toward DOWNTOWN ALBANY/ RENSSELAER/TROY. Take EXIT 2 toward PORT OF ALBANY. Stay STRAIGHT on the exit ramp to the stop sign. Turn RIGHT onto CHURCH ST and cross the railroad tracks. Turn LEFT onto BROADWAY. Just past the large U-Haul storage building on the left there will be a traffic light. Turn right into the parking lot next to the river. The USS SLATER is situated at the left side of the lot.

### **USS Slater**

- Cannon Class Destroyer Escort
- Built by the Tampa Shipbuilding Company
- Launched February 13, 1943
- Served mainly in the South Atlantic
- Final use was by the Hellenic Navy (Greece), transferred under the Truman Doctrine







#### USS Slater

The USS Slater was a ship used during World War II to battle Nazi U-boats. It was a cannon class destroyer escort. Destroyer escorts were named after Naval heroes. USS Slater was named for Frank O. Slater, a sailor killed aboard the USS San Francisco in 1942.

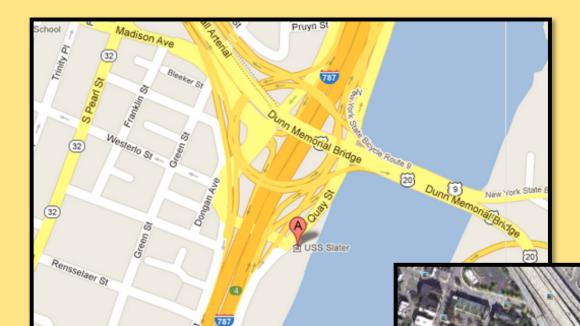
The USS Slater was built with the latest electronic equipment to be an anti – submarine and anti-aircraft weapons vessel for detecting enemies. It was designed to be a maneuverable, high speed, long ranged vessel.

The USS Slater remains the sole ship that is still in its World War II form. It was constructed to defend naval task forces from Japanese submarines and Kamikaze air attacks. In the U.S., it is the only destroyer escort afloat.

After World War II, the ship was deactivated until 1951. It was then renamed AETOS and was in Greek service until 1991. The Destroyer Escort Historical Foundation took control of the ship and began its restoration. It has undergone a 15 year restoration to appear as it did originally

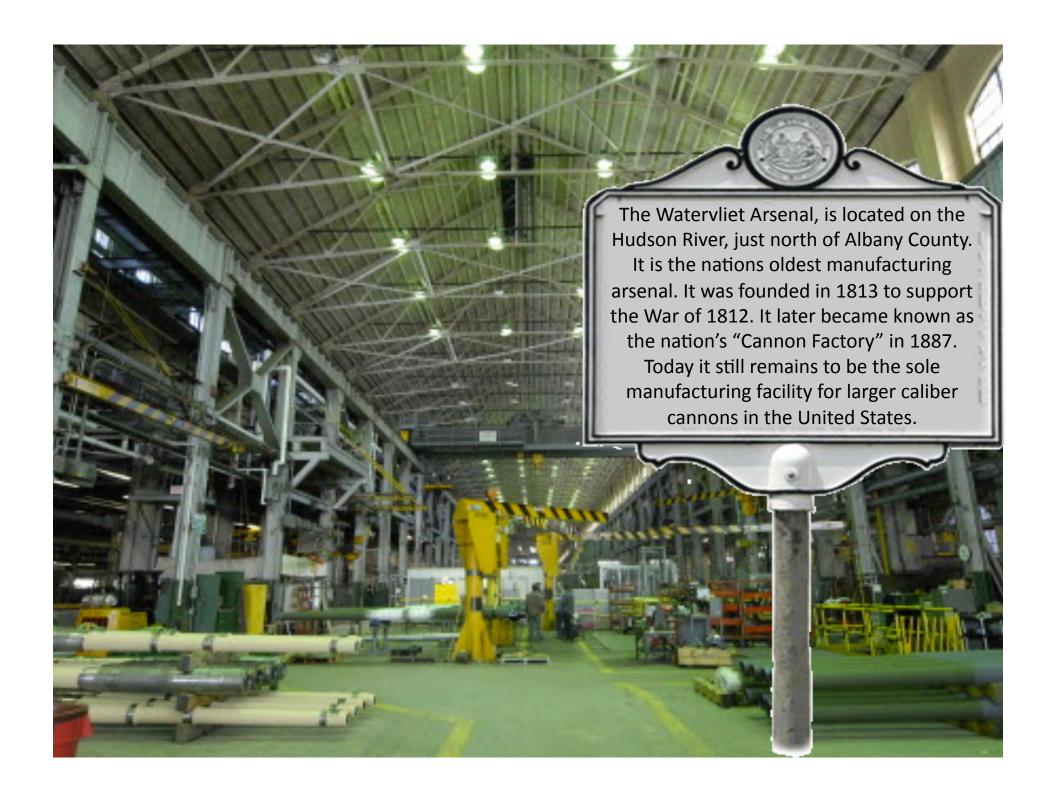
The USS Slater is docked on the Hudson River in Albany, New York. The docking of the ship allows a historic location for naval reunions. The museum also welcomes youth group overnight camping. The museum offers hour long guided tours from April through November, Wednesdays through Sundays from 10AM to 4PM





**USS Slater** 





# The Watervliet Arsenal



#### Phone:

(518)266-5805 or (518)266-4772

#### Address:

Building 38, Watervliet Arsenal, Watervliet, New York, 12189.

#### **Tours & Hours of Operation:**

Open year-round
Sunday through Thursday
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
\*\*Closed on Federal Holidays\*\*
Reservations are recommended
for group tours!

**FREE ADMISSION!** 

### Historical Description:

Watervliet Arsenal, known as "America's Cannon Factory" is an Army owned and operated manufacturing facility located in New York, just outside of Albany. Constructed in 1813, the Arsenal has played a vital role in America's defense throughout its long history, producing large bore cannon and a wide variety of other products for military needs. The billion dollar Arsenal manufacturing complex is situated on a 42 acre site and spans 72 buildings with 1.2 million square feet of manufacturing space. It is also home to the Army's Benet Laboratories, whose mission includes the development of arsenal products and technology.

### Directions:

#### From the South:

North on NYS Thruway to exit 23, Exit 23 to I-787 North toward Albany/Troy, Stay on I-787 past Albany and exit at 23rd Street exit (Watervliet), Left at stop light remain in left lane and turn left at next stop light (Broadway), Main gate for the arsenal is approximately 1¼ miles on the right after the stop light on Broadway. You will go past the Main Gate. One more right turn and you are at the South Gate.

### Watervilet Arsenal

- Founded in 1813
- ➤ Originally created to support the to support the War of 1812





- Nicknamed America's "Cannon Factory"
- ➤ Still supplies arms to American forces

### Watervliet Arsenal

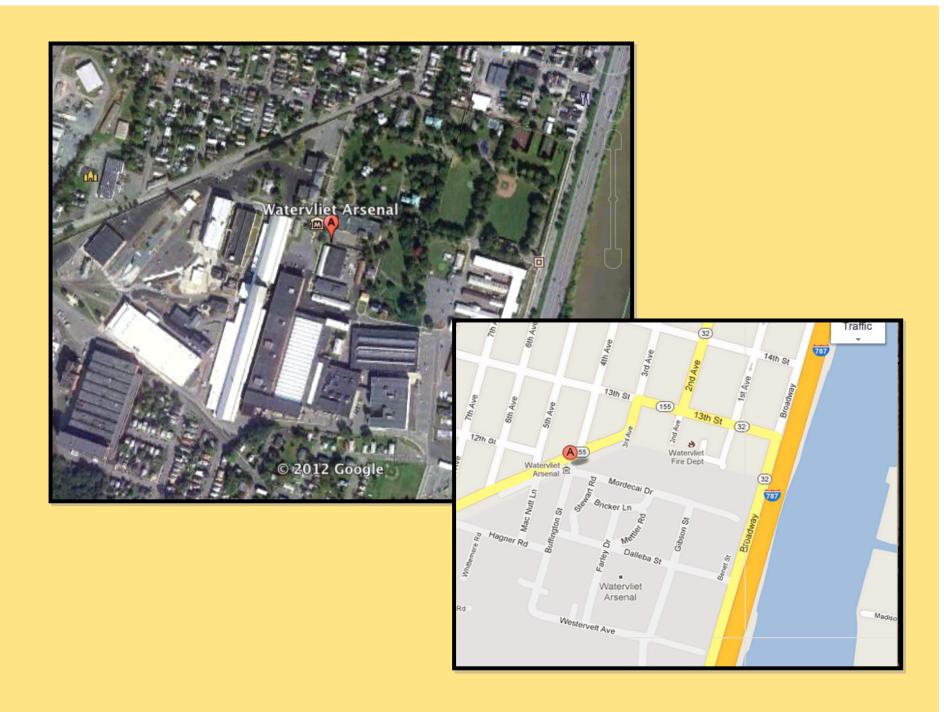
The Watervliet Arsena, or "America's Cannon Factory," is a symbol of the Americans who have served this country since 1813. For over 200 years, the workers at the arsenal have supported American soldiers. The arsenal is owned by the U.S. Army as an operating manufacturing facility. It is ISO 9001:200 and is Army Contracting Performance Certification Program Certified. It has been used to provide for defenses and military needs, with its major job being to produce large bore cannons.

The arsenal is a billion dollar manufacturing complex sitting on 143 acres with 72 buildings & 2.1 million square feet of manufacturing space.

The Army's Benet
Laboratories is located here at the
arsenal. Their mission is to develop
arsenal products and technology for
future combat systems. It involves
research, development of ideas, and
manufacturing.

In addition to material needed for wars, the arsenal provides manufactured goods for non-defense industries, such as the New York State Department of Transportation.





Demographics	1860 Census:	2010 Census:
Race:		
-Native born whites	61,718	244,245
-Native born blacks	938	43,076
-Native born mulattoes	128	
-American Indian or	1 (recorded)	2,326
Alaskan Native		
-Asian		16,511
-Hispanics	The state of the s	14,970
Age:	400 000	1 6
0-19	52,788	72,808
20-39	36,783	84,864
40-59	17,833	86,337
60-79	5,032	46,237
80 -99 +	413	13,958
		13,730
Gender:		
Male	51%	48%
Female	49%	52%
Tomato	1970	3270
Population:		
Total	113,917	304,204
	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	
T. ( 1 CC 1 1	204.042	60,000
Total acres of farm land	304,843 acres	60,000 acres
Primary Ways of Making a Living:		
	Farming and Shoe making	Management, business, science & arts
		occupations
Average Family Size:		
	5.5	2.95
		and the same of th

## Similarities

- Caucasians comprise the majority of the population
  - African Americans constitute a large amount of the population
    - Male to female ratio close to 50-50%

### 2010 Differences

- Farms are not as important for making a living
- Smaller families (from 5 1/2 to less than 3 per family)
- People are living longer, and the population has grown
- Less land is used for farming

### Websites for Albany County

AlbanyCounty.com Albany.org

#### History of Albany County

 Click on the links below for links relating to the history of Albany County

Click Here!

<u>Click Here</u>

Click Here!

Click Here!

**Historic Albany Foundation** 

Historic Cherry Hill

**Colonial Albany Image Gallery** 

#### Highway Route Markers

Click Here!

For State Historic Markers, Click Here!

### More Websites

Geneology and History of Early New York State

•Click Here!

Old newspaper articles from or about New York & New York families

•Click Here!

Links for the City of Albany

Official Site of the City of Albany

1720 Albany County Census

- •Click Here!
- http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/albany1/ towns/albanycity.html

# Cities, Towns, and Villages of Albany County

Below are some links to webpages related to specific places in Albany County:

- Albany (city)
- Altamont (village)
- Berne (town)
- Bethlehem (town)
- Coeymans (town)
- Cohoes (city)
- Colonie (town)
- Green Island (town and village)
- Guilderland (town)

- Knox (town)
- Menands (village)
- New Scotland (town)
- Ravena (village)
- Rensselaerville (town)
- Voorheesville (village)
- Watervliet (city)
- Westerlo (town)
- Colonie (village)

### Research Links for Albany County

To learn more about Fort Frederick... Click Here!

To learn more about the Van Schaick Mansion...

To learn more about New York State Executive Mansion...

To learn more about the Watervliet Arsenal...

To learn more about the USS Slater....

### Bibliography

#### Julia Levitan:

"Albany County History." New York and New York State Books on History Genealogy and Regional Interest for Sale from Hope Farm Press. Web. 01 Mar. 2012. <a href="http://www.hopefarm.com/albanyny.htm">http://www.hopefarm.com/albanyny.htm</a>.

"Historic Albany County." Web. 01 Mar. 2012. <a href="http://www.albanycounty.com/portal-albany-history.asp">http://www.albanycounty.com/portal-albany-history.asp</a>.

#### Scott Schachter:

- Ohlhous, Howard C., April 7, and 2008. "First Railroad Marker." *The Historical Marker Database*. N.p., n.d. Web. 5 Mar. 2012. <a href="http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=36635">http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=36635</a>.
- Ohlhous, Howard C., November 10, and 2011. "Birthplace of Modern Electricity Marker." *The Historical Marker Database*. N.p., n.d. Web. 5 Mar. 2012. <a href="http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=50211">http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=50211</a>.
- Ohlhous, Howard C., September 25, and 2006. "Fort Frederick Marker." *The Historical Marker Database*. N.p., n.d. Web. 5 Mar. 2012. <a href="http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=5280">http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=5280</a>.

The historical markers database includes all historical markers throughout NY State as well as many other landmarks around the country.

#### **Caitlyn Schilling:**

"The Historical Marker Database." The Historical Marker Database. J.J. Prats. Web. 04 Mar. 2012. <a href="http://www.hmdb.org/">http://www.hmdb.org/</a>.

This website was useful because it gave me information on markers for certain historical sites in Albany County. I was able to get information on Fort Frederick, USS Slater, the Van Schaick Mansion, and the Mohawk Hudson Railroad. It provided me information on location, what the parkers said, and when they were erected. It also provided me with various pictures of the markers.

#### **Kerry Young:**

- "Albany County History." New York and New York State Books on History Genealogy and Regional Interest for Sale from Hope Farm Press. Web. 02 Mar. 2012. <a href="http://www.hopefarm.com/albanyny.htm">http://www.hopefarm.com/albanyny.htm</a>.
- Dolanski, Judy. "Hudson~Mohawk~Schoharie History Three Rivers: From America's Most Famous Valleys." *Albany Schenectady Railroad. 1998. Web. 02 Mar. 2012. <a href="http://threerivershms.com/railroad.htm">http://threerivershms.com/railroad.htm</a>.*
- "Van Schaick Mansion." Van Schaick Mansion. Jan. 2008. Web. 02 Mar. 2012. <a href="http://www.vanschaickmansion.org/">http://www.vanschaickmansion.org/</a>.
- Wermuth, Thomas. "Albany County." *Hudson River Valley Institute Your Gateway to the Historic Hudson River Valley. Web. 02 Mar. 2012. <a href="http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/counties/albany.html">http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/counties/albany.html</a>.*

Each of these websites individually contributed useful knowledge and information about Albany County and the key historical, cultural and industrial areas that are in Albany County.

#### **Additional Websites**

- http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/albany/ gallery.html
- http://www.ussslater.org/history/history.html