



Perinton Historical Society HISTORIGRAM

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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"Stories From the 20th Century"

Claude Bragdon, Architect 1866-1946

This is a series of articles written by the authors of the book *Perinton and Fairport in the 20th Century* about people and stories that were left out or incomplete in the book. Page numbers refer to page numbers in the book.

Claude Bragdon is one of Rochester's more famous architects. He moved to Rochester with his family in 1884 and worked in the city as an architect on and off from 1886 to 1923 when he moved to New York City. Dozens of homes and public buildings in Western New York were designed by Claude. His most important commission, and what some architectural historians consider his masterpiece, was the New York Central Railroad Station in Rochester, New York built in 1914. The building featured five great circular windows like the driving-wheels of a locomotive engine. This architectural landmark was torn down in 1966.

This was not Claude Bragdon's first design for a railroad station. In 1893, he designed a series of railroad buildings including a station for the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railroad and in 1896 he designed a passenger station for the Merchants Despatch Transportation Company in the newly founded village of

Despatch now known as East Rochester.

The Despatch station built on Maple Ave and shown in the background on page 86 top, was a modest building with a typical large overhanging roof and standing platform. There were two circular shaped entrances on the side with the ticket window in between. The station was built to serve the dozens of workers who commuted by train from the city of Rochester and outlying areas to the Merchants Despatch Transportation Company. It was located on the south side of the tracks next to a tunnel that was built under the railroad tracks to the car factory north of the tracks. Mary Conners in the book *East Rochester, New York, One Hundred Years of History*, describes the station as "...a source of wonderment to passengers. As they looked out the train window, there was no village to be seen, only countryside that was flat, sandy and covered with wagon tracks."

It took many years to build up the village of Despatch from vacant farmland to a thriving community. Five years after its founding, the village had nine businesses, one hotel, one school and seventy six souls listed in the local directory. What better way to attract workers to live in the village and perhaps purchase a home then to build a modern hotel for long term residency.

Claude Bragdon was commissioned to design just such a grand hotel in Despatch in 1898 p.37 bottom. At the time it was the largest hotel between Rochester and Syracuse. This Greek Revival building with portico, large white doric columns, and rose colored stone, stood out on the corner of Main and Commercial

Our Mission

"The Mission of the Perinton Historical Society is to promote Community interest in the preservation of local records and artifacts for posterity, and for the enlightenment of the People of our town of Perinton"

Streets. The hotel was located several blocks from the noisy car shops and across the street from the only grocery stores in town and the United States Post Office. Later the hotel was turned into apartments with the lower floors filled with shops. At one time there was Jim Lockhart's meat market, an A&P, Cilento Cafe and later Woods Drugs.

Both buildings have disappeared from the village landscape, victims of progress and urban renewal.

The book *Perinton and Fairport in the 20th Century* is available at the museum gift shop, Fairport Coffee and the Perinton Town Hall.

Plan to Attend

November 9 ~ *"Pillars, Pediments and Porticoes-Recycling Ancient Greece for Modern America 1800-1860"* by Ed Douglas at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairport Museum.

November ~ all month ~ Free admission for PHS members to the Campbell-Whittlesey House Museum every Thursday and Friday 12 to 3 and the Stone-Tolan House Fridays and Saturdays 12 to 3.

December 14 ~ *Christmas at the Museum* ~ a concert by Dr. Brown and his Fairport High School students at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairport Museum.

January 18 ~ Presentation on old photographs. (Note: this is the third Tuesday of the month instead of the second Tuesday) at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairport Public Library.

February 8 ~ Presentation by Terri Lehr on the Fairport Baptist Home based on her newly published book, "For Those Who Shaped Our Heritage." Book signings after the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairport Museum.

January & February ~ The Fairport Museum will be closed.

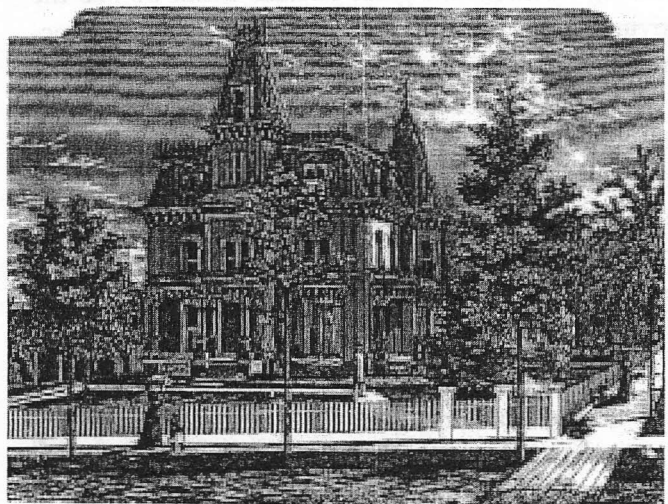
...And More Architect Designed Homes in Perinton and Fairport

Claude Bragdon designed one more building in Perinton in 1912. Bragdon was hired by Emory L. Meade to design his summer home at 4357 Nine Mile Point Road. This shingle clad Colonial Revival house can still be seen today on route 250.

The house was built on the former Westover Farm and on a clear day from the property you can see a magnificent view to the west all the way to the city of Rochester. Three distinct dormers grace the front of the building. The house was originally designed with cisterns in the basement, a maid's quarters, four bedrooms and a tennis court. The house was passed on to Emory's daughter Mrs. M. Herbert Eisenhardt and was known for many years in the 30's as the Eisenhardt Farm.

One of the more famous Fairport houses to have been designed by a local architect is the Henry DeLand House now known as the Green Lantern Inn. The house was designed around 1875 and built either in 1876 or 1877. The architect Henry chose for the job was Rochester resident John R. Thomas.

John R. Thomas began as an architect in 1864 with an office in his father's home at 46 Atkinson St. He



The Henry DeLand House

On the corner of Main and Church Streets in Fairport.

later set up shop in the old Reynold's Arcade in downtown Rochester. John was 31 years old and was ranked among the leading architects in the country when he was appointed by New York State Governor Dix as one of the State Architects in 1875.

Henry DeLand was most likely looking for an architect with a unique and flamboyant style when he chose John Thomas to design his house on the corner of Main and Church Streets. The house was built at the cost of \$40,000. There were 34 rooms, 6 fireplaces and of course the distinctive mansard roof. Although the mansard roof had been used in public and business buildings at this time, John Thomas is said to have been the first architect in Rochester to apply this type of roof to private dwellings. The design is classic Second Empire with the windows imported from France and the massive moldings and trim made from walnut.

Henry DeLand, his wife Minerva, son Wayland and daughter Helen lived in the house until 1896. It was then sold to Christina Semple. The house today is very well kept and has been a house and restaurant since 1954.

Historigram Gains New Volunteer

You may have noticed a new look to this issue of the *Historigram*. Recently, Editor and Museum Director Bill Keeler handed the layout duties to a new volunteer. Andy Gates, a Fairport Village resident and Perinton Historical Society member, has volunteered to do the layout of the newsletter each month. He brings his desktop publishing hobby and past experience with the newsletters of non-profit organizations such as Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Pittsford Musicals to PHS.

He is a financial analyst at EDS/Xerox and also volunteers as a Cubmaster/Den Leader of Cub Scout Pack 208. He and his wife, Ruth, have two children, James and Rachel, who attend Jefferson Avenue School.

What I Left Out Articles Now On Sale in the Gift Shop

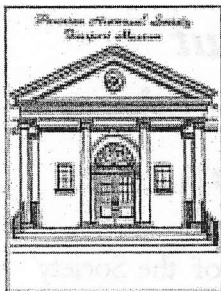
If you are a long time member of the Society and have read this newsletter over the last few years, you are familiar with the series of articles entitled *What I Left Out*. The articles were written by Bill Keeler one of the authors and editor for the book *Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal* and published as a regular feature in this newsletter for the past several years. The articles contain information and additional background for pictures and stories in the book. A unique feature of the articles are references to particular pages in the book so the reader can directly connect the article with the picture.

The Fairport Museum Gift Shop is now offering a compilation of these articles for sale at \$4 a set. There are 17 articles covering such topics as Fairport's First Inventor, Buffalo Bill and Taylor's Oil of Life, the Burgess & Butts Revival, Walter Parce and his gas well, and why a Carnegie Library was never built in Fairport.

This makes a good companion piece for those members who bought the book and perhaps misplaced their copies of the *Historigram* or a good gift for those who bought the book for non members. The gift shop is open Tuesday and Sunday from 2 to 4 and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9.

Fairport Facts

Do you remember? In the 1960's and 70's the traffic light on the corner of South Main and Church Streets would stop traffic in all four directions so pedestrians could walk diagonally across the street.



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18 Perrin Street
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FAIRPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

18 PERRIN STREET, FAIRPORT, NY 14450

HOURS

Tuesday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The first two Mondays of every month the Archives open for Researchers only.

The Fairport Museum will be closed in January and February.

Visit our website:

www.angelfire.com/ny5/fairporthistmuseum

Group tours, presentations and special projects by appointment.

Call 223-3989 and leave a message.