

## Why does Medina have a Hall of Fame?

Two hundred years ago settlers were beginning to move into the heavily forested regions where Medina is located now. A waterfall on Oak Orchard Creek became a power source for the first sawmill in the area. These early pioneers found stone suitable for building foundations along the creek.

A decade later the famous Erie Canal was being constructed between the Hudson River and Lake Erie. The intersection of the canal and the creek was a perfect place for a village and "Medina" was born.

As the canal was dug through Orleans County, workers found sections of stone very near the surface. In 1837 John Ryan opened the first commercial sandstone quarry adjacent to the canal in Medina. Thus began a local industry that would grow tremendously for the next 80 years.

At the turn of the century there were 50 quarries covering 2,000 acres located between Medina and Holley in Orleans County. These quarries employed as many as 1,200 workers and immigrants to the U.S. from Ireland, Poland, Italy, Germany and England came to this region to earn "good money". A stonebreaker could earn four dollars a day!

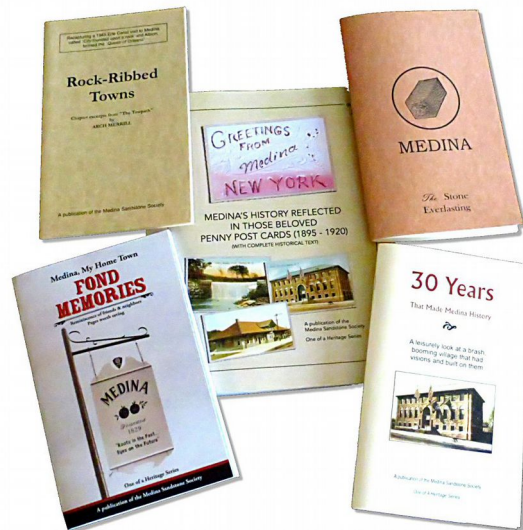
Stone from these quarries provided paving stones and curbing for the streets of Buffalo, Rochester, Cleveland and New York City. But more importantly a portion of the stone was used to create structures large and small - homes, churches, civic buildings, monuments and more.

The Medina Sandstone Hall of Fame seeks to identify where these structures are located and give special recognition to the most significant based on their architectural beauty and other criteria. We hope to increase appreciation for this important product of Medina's and Orleans County's history.

Founded in 2004, the Medina Sandstone Society today is a New York State not-for-profit corporation with the purpose of serving as a viable community asset to aid local programs.

The Sandstone Society has engaged in a wide variety of activities, including:

- Understanding the renowned stone itself.
- Fostering community support and esteem, supporting local projects and celebrations.
- Establishing the Hall of Fame.
- Encouraging historic preservation.
- Marking special sites with sandstone tablets.
- Using grants and gifts to protect structures.
- Publishing texts and books of local interest.
- Honoring special citizens with awards
- Saluting Medina's status as an Erie Canal port.
- Sponsoring "walking tours" of historic sites.
- Recruiting associates called "Stone Cutters"
- Establishing a Medina civic endowment named the Sandstone Trust.



Consult our website to learn about and purchase books. They're also offered at local book stores.

[www.SandstoneSociety.org](http://www.SandstoneSociety.org)

**Medina Sandstone Society and Trust**  
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*Medina Sandstone Society*

# Sandstone Hall of Fame 2016

Appreciating the  
*"extraordinary  
ordinary"* that  
surrounds us in  
western NY and  
beyond.

Quote by Bill Lattin, retired County Historian



2015 Hall of Fame inductees

The Hall of Fame is located in Medina City Hall, 600 Main Street. Open weekdays from 8:30-4:30.

## List of Nominees

\* indicates inductee in the Hall of Fame

### 2016 Nominees / Inductees

#### Buffalo

##### **First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo**

St. Michael's RC Church  
Lafayette Lofts

#### Other

**Emma Flower Taylor Mansion** in Watertown, NY  
Christ Church in Rochester  
Zion Episcopal Church in Palmyra, NY  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Sanborn, NY

### 2013-2015 Nominees / Inductees

#### Orleans County

Albion Presbyterian Church  
"Robin Hill" Smith home  
St. Rocco's in Hulberton  
**St. Mary's R.C. in Holley**  
**St. John's Episcopal**  
Clarendon Old Stone Store  
**Mt. Albion Monument**  
**Hillside Cemetery**  
**Pullman Church**  
**Medina Armory/YMCA**  
**St. Mary's Church**  
Medina Railroad Station  
Medina City Hall

#### Buffalo

**St. Paul's Cathedral**  
**H.H. Richardson Complex**  
**St. Louis Church**  
**Connecticut Street Armory**  
Buffalo Crematory  
Olmsted traffic circles  
**Delaware-Asbury Church**  
**"Martin Manor" residence**  
St. Patrick's Friary

#### Erie, PA

**St. Peter in Erie, Pa**

#### Other

Belhurst Castle  
St. Stephen's Church  
"Million Dollar Staircase"  
Genesee County Jail  
**Sonnenberg Manor**  
St. Luke's in Jamestown  
Charlotte Lighthouse  
**St. Bernard's Seminary**  
Brockport Civil War Tower  
Hamlin Beach Structures  
Richmond Library in Batavia  
Prendergast Lib. - Jamestown

The Medina Sandstone Society is proud to recognize these exceptional examples of Medina sandstone construction that are such an important part of our region's and our nation's past and future!

# Inductees in the (4th annual) 2016 Hall of Fame

## First Presbyterian Church

Buffalo, NY

The First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, New York was established in 1819 and was the first organized church in Buffalo.



The current building, made of beautiful Medina Sandstone, was designed by Green & Wicks and was built by Jared Hyde Tilden. In addition to this wonderful church, a 163 foot Tower was completed in 1897. In both cases the style is Richardson Romanesque. Upon

the completion of this tower, the congregation formally dedicated the sanctuary on May 6, 1897. Almost 200 years after its formation, First Presbyterian and its beautiful Medina Sandstone edifice are examples of truly outstanding longevity, both in spirit and structure.

## Sonnenberg Manor

Canandaigua, NY



Frederick Thompson, a NYC banker, and his wife Mary Clark Thompson, whose father, Myron Holley Clark, was Governor of NYS in 1855,

purchased the Sonnenberg ("sunny hill" in German) property in 1863. In 1887, they replaced the original farmhouse with a forty-room Queen Anne style mansion designed by Francis Allen, a noted Boston architect. Allen also designed and oversaw the remodeling of the mansion 15 years later. The mansion's facade is rusticated Medina gray and red sandstone.

In 1923, the property was sold to the Federal Government who built a veteran's hospital. In 1972 the mansion and its grounds were transferred to a local non-profit organization formed to restore and reopen the property. It was opened to the public and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

## Emma Flower Taylor Mansion

Watertown, NY



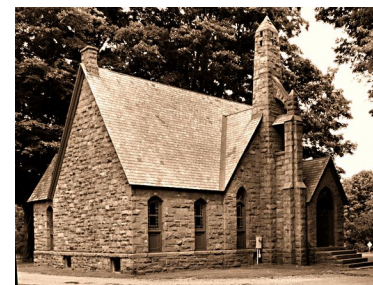
Built in 1896, the Emma Flower Taylor mansion in Watertown, NY is an outstanding example of the Queen Anne architectural style. It is a massive 2 1/2 story mansion constructed of rock

faced, random course Medina Sandstone which was moved to the site by rail, and cut on site.. The home was designed by Charles Rich of the NYC firm of Rich Lamb, which also designed Sagamore, the home of Theodore Roosevelt on Long Island. It has many distinguishing features including a porte-cochere, tiled roofs, a wrap around porch on the first floor, second floor porches, rounded corner turrets, large overhanging gables, an asymmetrical footprint and surfaces, and widow bays.

The mansion was converted to eight apartments in 1940 after Mrs. Taylor's death. It is a magnificent structure which was built and maintained in the classic Victorian tradition both externally and internally. Its present owners have stayed true to preserving this architectural gem in its original Queen Anne style. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

## Hillside Cemetery Chapel

Holley, NY



Located just outside the village of Holley, Hillside Cemetery is an active town cemetery established in 1866 and developed between 1866 and 1938. An elegant Gothic Revival style

chapel was built in 1894 for \$3,350 and is a primary feature of the cemetery. The chapel was designed by Rochester architect Addison Forbes and features Medina sandstone construction, a slate roof, and decorative glass windows. The chapel and cemetery were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. In 2014 the Landmark Society of WNY selected the chapel for inclusion as one of their Five to Revive properties.