

## Why does Medina have a Sandstone 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.
- Establish and maintain the Sandstone Hall of Fame.
- Develop an exhaustive list of Sandstone structures.
- 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**  
P.O. Box 25  
Medina, NY 14103

# 2022 Sandstone Hall of Fame



2021 Hall of Fame Inductees

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

Quote by Bill Lattin, retired County Historian

The Hall of Fame is located in Medina City Hall, 600 Main Street. Open weekdays from 9-5.

Hall of Fame plaques are manufactured and installed courtesy of Takeform Graphics, Medina, NY ([www.takeform.net/](http://www.takeform.net/))

Printed October 2022

## NEW SANDSTONE RESOURCES

The Medina Sandstone Hall of Fame began almost 10 years ago and our local community has nominated 77 buildings for consideration for induction into the HOF. A total of 35 have been inducted and their photos cover one entire wall in City Hall. During those years we have collected a great deal of information that has revealed additional Medina Sandstone structures – many not known to us previously. During the past year several important products have been produced from that research. You can view all of them from links on our website page -

<https://sandstonesociety.org/museum-of-medina-sandstone/>

The first is a Medina Sandstone database that strives to capture all our knowledge about buildings, quarries, etc.

	A	B	C	D	E
	Building / Structure name	Go to Photo	Inductees are dark red. Entries not yet nominated or inducted are shown in green italic.	City	Year Built
1	Alabama Center Cemetery Mausoleum			58	1958
2	"Million Dollar Staircase" in NYS Capitol			Vaughan	1883
3	Granite Block				1866
4	First Presbyterian Church			29 East State St	1875
5	Mt. Albion Cemetery Chapel			14788 Rt. 31	1875
6	Mt. Albion Civil War Tower			14788 Rt. 31	1876
7	Pullman Memorial Universalist Church			10 East Park Ave	1894

At the moment there are 237 structures listed with information on location, date built, photos, architect and quarry where known and much more. A further breakdown shows the 237 can be categorized as 85 homes, 58 churches, 41 businesses, 41 public buildings, etc. Take a look at this data collection and you're sure to discover something you didn't know before!

The second is a "Wikipedia" page for Medina Sandstone. Wikipedia is a free online encyclopedia written and maintained by a community of volunteers through open collaboration and editing. There have been many references to Medina Sandstone and now each of those references can be clicked to take the viewer to our new Medina Sandstone page describing additional information about this historic Orleans County industry.



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

We hope to utilize both of these new products along with walking and driving tour maps, etc. to grow the current Medina City Hall photo display into a more complete museum about our favorite topic - Medina Sandstone. ♦



LIST OF SANDSTONE NOMINEES

2022 Nominees / Inductees

<b>St. Joseph's RC Church in Albion</b>	Fancher WWII Monument
Soldiers' Memorial Tower in Brockport	<b>Ryan Quarry house in Clarendon</b>
Old Train Station (Senior Center) in Medina	<b>Erie Canal Culvert in Medina</b>
Boxwood Cemetery Chapel in Medina	
<b>Orleans County</b>	<b>Buffalo</b>
<b>Bent's Opera House in Medina</b>	<b>St. Paul's Cathedral</b>
First Baptist Church in Holley	<b>H.H. Richardson Complex</b>
Granchelli Home (Front porch) in Medina	<b>St. Louis Church</b>
<b>Albion Presbyterian Church</b>	<b>Connecticut Street Armory</b>
Graestone Manor (foundation only) in Gasport	Buffalo Crematory
"Robin Hill" home in Lyndonville	Olmsted traffic circles
St. Rocco's in Hulberton	<b>Delaware-Asbury Church</b>
<b>St. Mary's R.C. in Holley</b>	<b>"Martin Manor" residence</b>
<b>St. John's Episcopal</b>	St. Patrick's Friary
Clarendon Old Stone Store	<b>First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo</b>
<b>Mt. Albion Monument</b>	St. Michael's RC Church
<b>Hillside Cemetery in Holley</b>	<b>Lafayette Presbyterian / Lofts</b>
<b>Pullman Church in Albion</b>	Eberhardt Mansion
<b>Medina Armory/YMCA</b>	Blessed Sacrament RC Church
<b>St. Mary's Church</b>	Trinity Episcopal Church
<b>Rochester/Finger Lakes</b>	<b>Other Locations</b>
<b>St. Luke's Episcopal in Brockport</b>	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Olean
Woodlawn Chapel in Canandaigua	<b>St. Peter's RC Church in Rome, NY</b>
<b>St. Mary's in Canandaigua</b>	"Million Dollar Staircase"
<b>St. John's Episcopal Church in Clifton Springs</b>	Genesee County Jail, Batavia
Belhurst Castle in Geneva	<b>Richmond Library in Batavia</b>
Charlotte Lighthouse	St. Mary's in Batavia
<b>St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester</b>	<b>First Lutheran in Jamestown</b>
<b>Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester</b>	<b>St. Luke's in Jamestown</b>
Hamlin Beach Structures	<b>Prendergast Library in Jamestown</b>
<b>Sonnenberg Manor in Canandaigua</b>	<b>Emma Flower Taylor Mansion in Watertown</b>
<b>Zion Episcopal Church in Palmyra</b>	<b>St. Peter Cathedral in Erie</b>
<b>St. Peter's Episcopal in Geneva</b>	St. Peter's Lutheran in Sanborn, NY
Christ Church in Rochester	First Methodist in Dunkirk
1140 Edgewood residence in Rochester	<b>Watson-Curtze Mansion in Erie, PA</b>
Old Stone Warehouse/ Skalny Bldg. In Rochester	St. Ann Catholic Church in Erie, PA
	St. Paul Catholic Church in Erie, PA
	First Presbyterian Church in Titusville, PA

\* Colored text indicates a HOF Inductee

ERIE CANAL CULVERT  
TOWN OF RIDGEWAY, NY



Medina Sandstone was used in many public works projects, including sidewalks, curbs and pavers for streets. The strong and durable stone also was a preferred product for bigger infrastructure projects, including the Canal Culvert in the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County.

This is the only spot on the Erie Canal where cars drive under the historic waterway (and often sound their horns when in the tunnel).

The original Culvert was built in 1823 and made longer with later canal improvement projects that widened the waterway. The current Culvert was rebuilt as part of the Barge Canal enlargement from 1905 to 1918.

With the Culvert, the weight of the stones press against each other, lending support and keeping the joints tight. It has been featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not.

The Culvert was built as a cheaper solution in 1823 compared to building a bridge across the growing canal. This point made the perfect spot for a tunnel as the waters of the canal crossed over a large ditch with 20-foot-high berms on either side of the middle ground.

The archway with a 7-foot, 6-inch clearance remains an iconic part of Orleans County, and the site is a can't miss for visitors who can pass through on a damp one-lane road or go by foot on sidewalks inside. ♦

The Medina Sandstone Society is proud to induct these outstanding examples of Medina sandstone construction into the Medina Sandstone Hall of Fame Class of 2022.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, LYCEUM and  
CHAPEL – ALBION, NY



St. Joseph's parish was founded in 1852. By 1892 their first church was too small for the burgeoning congregation of mostly Irish immigrants. The present church, which is of Gothic Revival architecture, was built of locally quarried Medina Sandstone and dedicated on September 1, 1897. Within 10 years, the church having cleared of debt, decided to build a school, also from Medina Sandstone. This building was to become St. Joseph's School and Lyceum and was dedicated on December 14, 1905. Then in 1920 property was purchased for a new cemetery, where a beautiful Chapel was erected, also of Medina Sandstone. The Chapel was designed by Pasquale DiLaura and is of Romanesque Revival architecture.

In 1952 a major renovation was completed on the 100th anniversary of St. Joseph's. Now nearing 170 years of service, St. Joseph's will continue to be a beacon to the community of Albion for many years to come. ♦



RYAN QUARRY HOUSE  
S. HOLLEY RD., CLARENDON, NY



The Ryan Quarry home at 4160 South Holley Road in the Town of Clarendon is unique in all of Orleans County. It is the only surviving Medina Sandstone building that was part of a quarry operation. Built in 1863 this home is owned and has been lovingly restored by Robert and Maureen Christian.

The home's history goes back much further than the nearby Ryan quarry. When the house was built there were no commercial stone quarries in the Holley / Clarendon area and it's likely that sandstone was obtained from the banks of Sandy Creek gorge directly across the road from the home. As Copeland describes in his 1889 Clarendon history "*On either side may be seen huge masses of red sandstone, piled in irregular shapes, or lying in uneven strata, over which the waters of West Sandy gurgle and eddy, on their way to join the blue Ontario*". This area eventually saw three quarries – Down's and Gorman's quarry in 1881, the Gleason Place quarry in 1890 and the large Ryan Company quarry (adjacent to the home) in 1920.

The farmhouse became an office building for the Ryan company and the location of much activity during the 1920s-'30s. Writing left by Civilian Conservation Corp workers was found on the walls during the home's restoration. Those CCC workers were likely picking up stone to be used in the construction of the numerous Hamlin State Park structures. In 1942 the property was foreclosed on and abandoned until Mr. Christian's aunt purchased it in 1951. The property later passed to the current owners who have worked to improve the house and property for the past 40 years. ♦