

# Guide to THE LAKE CITY



*lake champlain walkways*  
an interpretive guide

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	6
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### Section 1: Downtown

Margaret Street and Oak Streets .....	8
Brinkerhoff Street Historic District .....	9
Broad Street and Brinkerhoff Street .....	10
SUNY Plattsburgh .....	11

### Section 2: The Point

Bridge Street .....	12
Macomb Street .....	14
Hamilton Street and Macomb Street .....	15

### Section 3: The United States Oval

Museum Campus .....	18
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## Section 4: Riverwalk and Cumberland Bay

Along the Path .....	22
Lake Champlain Birding Trail .....	23
Experiencing the Saranac River .....	25
Acknowledgements .....	27



### Key:

¶ Buildings and sites open to the public

^ Points of interest

+ Privately Owned

Cover:

Bird's eye view of Plattsburgh, Clinton Co., New York 1877. A. Ruger, del.

C.H. Vogt & Co. Lith. Courtesy: City of Plattsburgh



Image courtesy: Bradford Lee Hunt

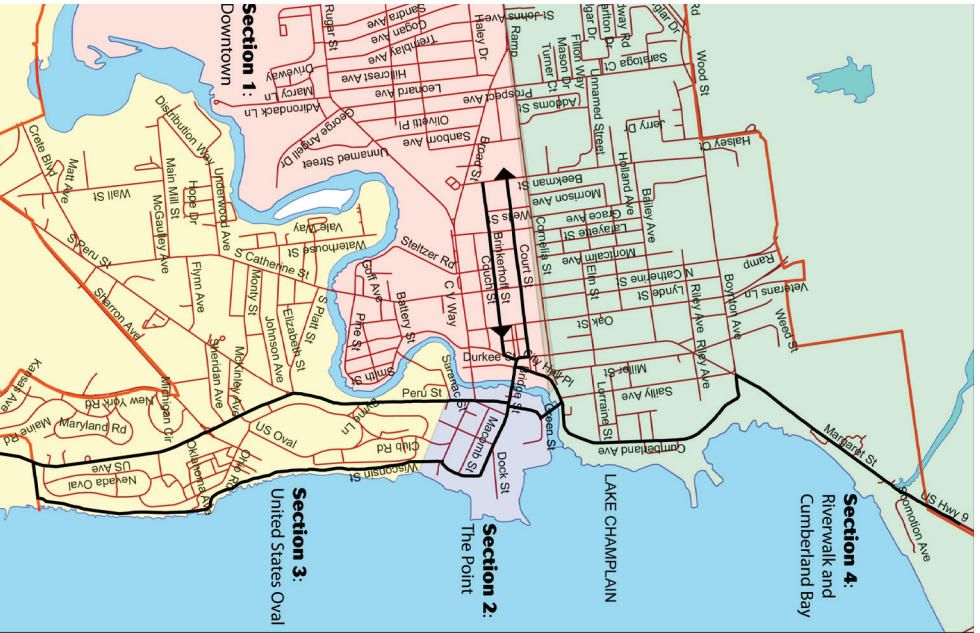
## Welcome to Plattsburgh!

Plattsburgh is a vibrant city, known for its extraordinary location at the confluence of the Saranac River with beautiful Lake Champlain. We invite you to explore the outstanding natural features, plentiful recreational opportunities, thriving cultural attractions and the historic legacy of the Lake City. You will discover a rich and unique heritage — and very warm hospitality.

The earliest buildings in Plattsburgh consisted mainly of mills and rough dwelling houses, situated near fortifications for protection. The Saranac River provided the water power that spurred the growth of early industries, while Lake Champlain's connection to the canal systems provided a route to move goods to national and foreign markets. Plattsburgh's strategic location has served all four branches of our nation's military on water, land and air for over 200 years. Plattsburgh's key moment in history came when the local militia had to fight off a British invasion in September 1814. The success of American forces ended the War of 1812, and ushered in nearly two hundred years of peace and prosperity with our Canadian neighbors to the north.

Today, Plattsburgh enjoys flourishing arts, museums, historic districts, shopping, and recreational opportunities. With or without the "h," is often the question. That was finally decided in 1951 when the U. S. Postal Service determined that the official city post office was to be "Plattsburgh", with the "h". Confusion remains today for the traveler when encountering highway signs that point to "Plattsburg." Any way you spell it, let this guide take you by foot, boat, bike, or car, to all the great sites the Lake City has to offer.

Map on Page 7	
1 ..... City Parking Lot	27 .... Moss Kent Platt House
2 ..... City Hall	28 .... Lowell/Bowen House
3 ..... Macdonough Monument	29 .... Ned Baker House
4 ..... Trinity Episcopal Church	30 .... Franklin Palmer House
5 ..... Old Court House	31 ..... St. John Skinner House
6 ..... Margaret Street	32 .... Herbert Barber House
7 ..... Plattsburgh Public Library	33 .... Site of Zephaniah Platt House
8 ..... First Baptist Church	Map on Page 17
9 ..... Charles Dunham House	34 .... United States Oval
10 .... North Country Cultural Center for the Arts	35 .... Battle of Plattsburgh Association and War of 1812 Museum
11 .... The Strand Theatre	36 .... Champlain Valley Transportation Museum
12 .... First Presbyterian Church	37 ..... Clinton County Historical Museum
13 ..... Hayes Homestead	38 .... Plattsburgh Memorial Chapel
14 ..... St. John's Roman Catholic Church	39 .... Early Outposts
15 ..... Hiram Walworth House	40 .... Post Cemetery
16 .... Sperry's Tavern	Map on Page 22
17 ..... SUNY Plattsburgh	41 ..... Pike's Cantonment
Map on Page 12	42 .... Oliver Davidson House
18 .... Riverside Cemetery	43 .... Kent-Delord House
19 .... Site of Charles de Fredenburgh House	44 .... Champlain Monument
20 .... Site of Israel Green's Tavern	45 .... Site of Native American Village
21 ..... Benjamin Mooers House	46 .... War of 1812 Graves
22 .... D&H Railroad Station	47 ..... Railroad Bridge at Riverwalk
23 .... Fouquet House	48 .... Pedestrian Bridge
24 .... Dock Street Landing Waterfront Park	49 .... Small Boat Launch
25 .... George Barber House	50 .... Cumberland Bay State Park
26 .... William Morgan House	51 ..... Plattsburgh Bay
	52 .... Crab Island
	53 .... Valcour Island
	54 .... Wilcox Dock



Map Key:

- Red : Section 1
- Blue: Section 2
- Yellow: Section 3
- Green: Section 4
- Red Lines: City Limits
- Black Lines: Bike Routes

**Karen Fleury Memorial Bike Path:**

Beginning just north of the Scomotion Creek Bridge, this bike path parallels Routes 9 and 314 to City Beach, and Cumberland Head

**Terry James Gordon Recreational Path:** This paved recreation trail along the lakeshore features scenic views of Crab Island, Plattsburgh Bay, and Lake Champlain.

**Lake Champlain Bikeways** provides an "around the lake" primary route and interpreted theme loops with a local perspective; information can be found on [www.champlainbikeways.org](http://www.champlainbikeways.org).

**Bike Route 9** is the long distance, on-road bicycle route for experienced cyclists maintained by NY's Department of Transportation, linking New York City to Montreal. Cyclists using these routes should be comfortable sharing the roadway with motorized vehicles traveling at higher speeds.

## SECTION 1: Downtown

Bordered by the Saranac River to the south, Lake Champlain to the east, and SUNY Plattsburgh to the west, this is truly the present day hub of downtown Plattsburgh. With two National Register Historic Districts, an evolving arts community, and central business district, Downtown Plattsburgh offers a vibrant urban center in a Victorian era setting. **1 The City Parking Lot on Durkee Street** is a good place to leave the car and begin to explore the city. East of the parking lot is the Saranac River. Years ago, logs jammed the waters on the way to the mills for processing. A dam near the bridge provided power. As you continue across Bridge Street you will see City Hall.

**2 41 City Hall Place – 1917 – City Hall ¶** Plattsburgh City Hall was built in 1917 in the Classical design of John Russell Pope, who also designed the Jefferson Memorial in Washington. Pope chose the same Indiana Limestone for the Macdonough Monument across the street. Murals in the lobby painted by Peter Charlap depict historic events in Plattsburgh. In 1996, local divers discovered the anchor from the British warship HMS Confiance, lost in Lake Champlain

during the Battle of Plattsburgh on September 11, 1814. During restoration, the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum discovered a large dent made by a cannon ball. City Hall is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and during special festivities. See [www.cityofplattsburgh-ny.gov](http://www.cityofplattsburgh-ny.gov)

**3 42 City Hall Place – 1926 – Macdonough Monument ¶** A majestic memorial to the American naval victory at Plattsburgh in 1814, the monument rises 135 feet above a park opposite City Hall. Inscribed near the base are the names of Thomas Macdonough's primary vessels: Saratoga, Ticonderoga, Eagle, and Preble. The bronze eagle has a wingspan of 22 feet. Visitors may climb the monument during special events. For details, call the City Clerk's office at 563-7702.

**4 18 Trinity Place – 1830 – Trinity Episcopal Church ¶** This is Plattsburgh's oldest public building. Erected in 1830 and 1831, the building exemplifies the early period of American Gothic Revival architecture. The parish installed Trinity's stained glass windows in 1866. Nearly all of the windows are dedicated to former members of the congregation and represent families with names still familiar in Plattsburgh. Reverend John Henry Hopkins, rector 1872-1877, was the author of the hymn "We Three Kings."



(2+3) Macdonough Monument and City Hall as seen from Riverwalk

## Downtown: Margaret Street and Oak Street

- 5 Corner of Margaret Street and Court Street – 1889 – Old Court House ¶** This building has Romanesque features, including a heavy arched doorway, and rusticated stonework in various colors.
- 6 Downtown Margaret Street ^** This neighborhood is experiencing a resurgence of energy due to an artistic renaissance in the city. There were substantial fires in 1848 and 1867, so most buildings in the area were built after 1867.
- 7 19 Oak Street – 1940 – Plattsburgh Public Library ¶** Rev. N. Richards of the Baptist Church was among the first to organize a modern lending library in Plattsburgh; in 1894 the State Superintendent of Libraries granted a formal library charter. The library continued to expand, and in 1940, it relocated to the former Plattsburgh High School. Works Progress Administration funds financed extensive renovations to the building. For more information, see [www.plattsburghlib.org](http://www.plattsburghlib.org) or call 563-0921.
- 8 38 Oak Street – 1932 – First Baptist Church ¶** The Parish was organized in 1878, but the first building on the site burned in 1931. The parish dedicated the present stone church in 1932.



(6) Downtown Margaret St. Photo Courtesy: Jeff Olson

- 9 48 Court Street – circa 1805 – Charles Dunham House + Pamela Dunham,** wife of the original owner, Charles Dunham, conducted a private school here before the War of 1812. The British used the basement as a hospital in 1814, and wounded soldiers were brought through the basement door. The house is now a funeral home, and the owner converted the basement into a garage where the hearse is now stored. The section on the right and the rebuilt roof are also twentieth century additions.

## Downtown: Brinkerhoff Street Historic District

**10 North Country Cultural Center for the Arts ¶** The NCCCA is a hub for the arts, providing services for artists and the public. Completed in 1859, the building first served as a Post Office, then a Customs House, and even a United States Courthouse later. The gallery is open to the public Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, see [www.plattsburgharts.org](http://www.plattsburgharts.org) or call 563-1604.

**11 Brinkerhoff Street– 1924 – The Strand Theatre ^** The Strand served as the premier theatre of Plattsburgh, where silent movies were presented with the Strand orchestra providing accompaniment. In 2004, the NCCCA purchased the building, and is in the midst of a fundraising effort to restore it as a performing arts center; complete with a recently donated 1924 Wurlitzer theatre organ.

**12 34 Brinkerhoff Street – circa 1870 – First Presbyterian Church ¶ (12)** The oldest church organization in Clinton County, the original church was completed in 1816, but during construction was used as a barracks during the Battle of Plattsburgh. It burned in 1867 and was rebuilt in the 1870s.



(11) Strand Theatre Photo Courtesy: Leigh Mundy

## Downtown: Broad Street and Brinkerhoff St.

**13 59 Brinkerhoff Street – Hayes Homestead** + Easily recognized by its French Second Empire roof, this house was built in the late 1800s by L.W. Hayes. The original five chimneys and the beautiful stained glass windows are still intact.

**14 18 Broad Street – ca. 1870 – St. John's Roman Catholic Church** ¶ The parish was organized in 1827, and the present church was built between 1868 and 1873. An Italian marble altar ordered for the church sank with the Titanic.

**15 33 Broad Street – ca. 1815 – Hiram Walworth House** + Jonathan Griffin, town supervisor and state assemblyman, lost his first house on this site to fire during the Battle of Plattsburgh. Aiken formed his Company of volunteers, composed largely of underage youths, in its yard. In 1828, Griffin deeded this second house to his daughter Delia, wife of Hiram Walworth, Sr.

**16 48 Broad Street – ca. 1800 – Sperry's Tavern** + Originally owned by Captain Gilead Sperry, who commanded a volunteer militia company at the Battle of Plattsburgh, Sperry's Tavern greeted stagecoaches from Ogdensburg twice a week. Many civil and religious affairs were held in the ballroom of this large, rambling structure. One of the first two Methodist bishops in America, Bishop Francis Ashbury, preached here in 1811. When Judge J. Douglas Woodward acquired the building in 1848, he divided it, moving part of it to the next lot to the west and refurbishing the rest for his own use.



(13) Hayes Homestead

## Downtown: State University of New York at Plattsburgh

**17** **101 Broad Street – State University of New York College at Plattsburgh** ^ A four-year public college with an undergraduate enrollment of 5,700 students, SUNY Plattsburgh offers more than sixty degree programs within three academic divisions. The center of campus is a large outdoor courtyard surrounded by the Angell College Center, Myers Fine Arts Building, and Feinberg Library. The Rockwell Kent Gallery and the Winkle Sculpture Court have notable collections and are well worth visiting. The most distinctive academic building on campus is Hawkins Hall, located on Beekman Street between Broad Street and Cornelia Street. Named in honor of George Hawkins, the principal of Plattsburgh Normal School from 1898 to 1933, the building replaced the original Plattsburgh Normal School which burned to the ground in 1929. The oldest building on campus is Champlain Valley Hall, located near the corner of Rugar St. and Angell St. For additional information, call 564-2000 or see [www.plattsburgh.edu/admissions/files/walking-tour-7-1.pdf](http://www.plattsburgh.edu/admissions/files/walking-tour-7-1.pdf) for a walking tour of campus.

**18** South of campus on **Steltzer Road – Riverside Cemetery** ¶ The cemetery contains the graves of British and American officers killed in the Battle of Plattsburgh. Also buried here are many Plattsburgh notables, including William Bailey, Lucretia Davidson, Henry Delord, Benjamin Mooers, Zephaniah and Charles Platt, Peter Saily, and Smith Weed. A complete transcription of cemetery inscriptions is available on [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com) and at SUNY Plattsburgh and public libraries.

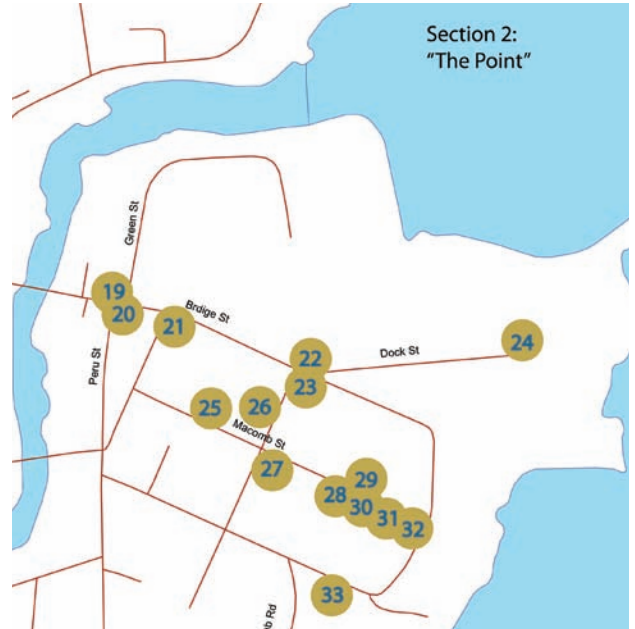


(17) SUNY Plattsburgh

## SECTION 2: The Point Historic District

The Point was the original site for the settlement of Plattsburgh. A vast wilderness once surrounded this outpost, and blockhouses warded off attackers and protected the waterway. Later Victorian merchants and wealthy aristocrats built their townhouses in the elegant architectural styles of the day at this location. Today it is hard to imagine the densely forested wilds Count Charles de Fredenburgh encountered in 1769, but when you explore this area you will discover the era of commercial enterprise, and enjoy the decorative styling and display of riches that lends itself to the name "Gilded Age." The Point was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

**19 Corner of Bridge Street and Green Street – circa 1769 – Site of Charles de Fredenburgh House** ^ The first settlement in Plattsburgh was made by Count Charles de Fredenburgh prior to 1769. He erected a dwelling on this site on the south bank of the Saranac River as well as a saw-mill at the rapids, three miles above, still known as Fredenburgh Falls.



## The Point: Bridge Street

**20 Corner of Bridge Street and Green Street – circa 1810 – Site of Israel Green’s Tavern** ^ (20) On the site of the old Fredenburgh house, John Clark built a tavern, and Israel Green subsequently used it for the same purpose. The American victory at the Battle of Plattsburgh was celebrated here and President James Monroe was entertained here when he visited Plattsburgh in July 1817.

**21 100 Bridge Street – circa 1803 – Benjamin Mooers House** + Benjamin Mooers bought the house in 1814. A lieutenant in the Revolution, sheriff, assemblyman, and senator, Mooers was a Major General of Volunteers in the War of 1812. He lived here until his death in 1838. During the Battle of Plattsburgh this building was General Alexander Macomb’s headquarters. A British cannon ball came through an open door and lodged in the south wall where it remains today.

**22 Lower Bridge Street – 1886 – D&H Railroad Station** ¶ This building reclaimed a swamp, greatly improving the area. Built with “state of the art” technology, this building included steam heat, electricity, ticket office, baggage room, dispatcher’s office, and a lunchroom on the main level. The structure is

a reflection of Victorian concept that the railway station was the gateway to the city and should be a monument to its civic architecture. The building presently serves as an Amtrak railstation, with service from New York City and Montreal.

**23 130 Bridge Street – 1865 – Fouquet House** + The Original Fouquet Stage House, which occupied this property, burned in 1864. Fouquet & Son rebuilt this structure with luxurious gardens and landscaping the following year. An integral part of the early city, it was only open in the summer months. At one time, the famous Adirondack hotelier Paul Smith owned it, catering to the wealthy rail and steamboat travelers to the Adirondacks.

**24 Lower Dock Street – Dock Street Landing Waterfront Park** ¶ Dock Street Landing, the former Delaware and Hudson Rail Yard, has undergone a dramatic transformation. The five-acre site that served as a rail yard for over one hundred years is now a public park with more than two thousand feet of accessible waterfront and meandering trails. Crab Island and Valcour Island are visible from Peace Point, located on a promontory jutting into Plattsburgh Bay.

## The Point: Macomb Street

**25 11 Macomb Street – ca. 1875 – George Barber House +**  
Built by George Barber, partner with his brother in R.O. Barber & Sons Dry Goods and Carpeting located at 48 Margaret Street. His father, Roswell Barber, lived at 28 Macomb Street and his brother, Herbert, lived at 30 Macomb Street.

**26 17 Macomb Street – ca. 1820 – William Morgan House +**  
Owned By merchant William Morgan in 1869, this house is the only surviving Federal Style structure in this area, and one of the few in the city. The linked chimneys are its most notable feature.

**27 18 Macomb Street – ca. 1865 – Moss Kent Platt House +**  
This house was built by Moss Kent Platt, a merchant and iron manufacturer, State Senator, and a descendent of Judge Zephaniah Platt, the city's namesake.

**28 22 Macomb Street – ca. 1815 – Lowell or Bowen House +**  
This house was built in the French Second Empire Style by Samuel Lowell. It is believed that Lowell built the house with gold his wife had secreted from the British during the Battle of Plattsburgh. In 1868, Shepard Bowen rebuilt the house as it is today. A wing, known as The Chapel, contains murals by William Morris Hunt.



Top: (28) 22 Macomb St. Photo Courtesy: John J. McKenna, III



Below: (29) 26 Macomb St. Photo Courtesy of Rick Perry

## The Point: Hamilton Street and Macomb Street

**29 26 Macomb Street – circa 1885 – Ned Baker House** + The best representation of Stick Style architecture in the area, this home was built by Ned Baker, a co-owner of Baker Brothers lumber business on lower Bridge Street.

**30 27 Macomb Street – circa 1880 – Franklin Palmer House** + Built by Colonel Franklin Palmer, co-owner of Palmer & Company, a flour, grain, and feed store and mill on Bridge Street.

**31 28 Macomb Street – circa 1832 – St. John Skinner House** + Built by St. John B. L. Skinner, a member of Aiken's Volunteers during the Battle of Plattsburgh, lawyer, surrogate judge, county clerk, and assistant postmaster general under Presidents Lincoln and Grant. This house is an excellent example of late Greek Revival influence on rural, upstate New York architecture.

**32 30 Macomb Street – circa 1885 – Herbert Barber House** + This house, first owned by Herbert Barber, brother of George who lived at 11 Macomb Street, is built in a vernacular style with Gothic Revival elements added at a later date.

**33 Hamilton Street – 1799 – Site of Zephaniah Platt House** + Zephaniah Platt, founder of Plattsburgh, built his home at this site in 1799.



(31) 28 Macomb St.



(32) 30 Macomb St. Courtesy of Rick Perry

## SECTION 3: United States Oval Historic District

Plattsburgh has a long military history starting with the Battle of Valcour during the American Revolution and ending with the closing of Plattsburgh Air Force Base in September 1995. Prior to American involvement in the First World War, the city gave rise to the movement for civilian military preparedness, which became known as the “Plattsburg Idea,” predecessor to today’s ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps). During the summer of 1915, the US Oval became home to thousands of young men who volunteered for six weeks of military training. In 1916, the military expanded the idea to include air and naval training in other places in NY, including “Air Plattsburgh,” which opened in New York Harbor. Today the Oval is home to a city park and a number of museums.

**34 United States Oval Historic District and Recreational Trail: Historic Plattsburgh Barracks – 1815-1995** ¶ The former Plattsburgh Barracks, was in active use from 1815 to 1995, and its historic structures and the picturesque grounds are now open to the public. In 1838 a quadrangle of four stone barracks was started, but work was discontinued after the completion of the east and south barracks. Only the south barracks still stand. Lieutenant

Ulysses Grant once lived here. In the 1890s, the brick barracks and officers’ quarters were constructed surrounding the Oval during a major expansion.

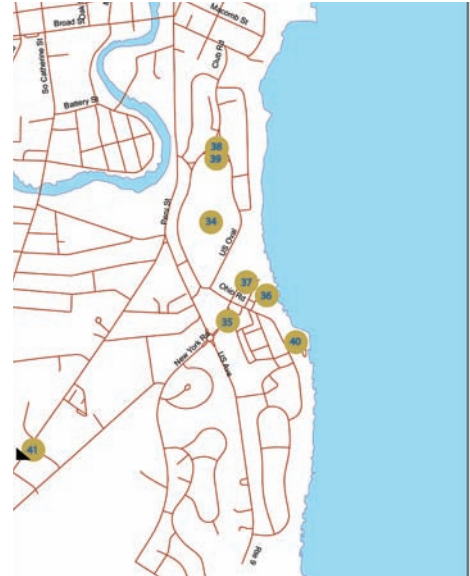
The regimental headquarters, facing the parade ground, was built in 1893 for the regimental commander and his staff. A marble plaque in the entryway commemorates the men from the 21st Infantry Regiment killed in Cuba during the Spanish American War. The 21st Regiment was known as the “President’s Own” because President William McKinley had summered at Hotel Champlain (now Clinton Community College) in 1897 and 1899. Residents often saw McKinley in his carriage at the Barracks or on the streets of Plattsburgh. Each Sunday evening during the summer months the gates of the Barracks were opened to Plattsburgh residents and the military band would present a concert at the gazebo.

Lining the west side of the Oval are fourteen two-family homes built in Colonial Revival Style between 1893 and 1897. These officers’ quarters housed some of America’s greatest military leaders, including Douglas MacArthur, Leonard Wood, George Marshall, Jonathan Wainwright, Mark Clark, and Theodore Roosevelt Jr. On the south end of the Oval, a new memorial has been dedicated for veterans of all wars, past and present, whether the veteran is alive or deceased.



(34) City Court at US Oval Photo Courtesy: Hon. Penelope Clute

A guide to the US Oval is available at the Battle of Plattsburgh Interpretive Center at 13 Washington Road. Interpretive exhibits on the Plattsburgh Idea can be found in the lobby of the Plattsburgh City Court, housed in a former barracks building at 24 US Oval; open to the public Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For additional information, see [www.courts.state.ny.us/4jd/plattsburgh\\_city/index.shtml](http://www.courts.state.ny.us/4jd/plattsburgh_city/index.shtml) or call 563-7870.



## US Oval: Museum Campus

**35 Battle of Plattsburgh Association and War of 1812 Museum – 13 Washington Road ¶** The Battle of Plattsburgh Association operates the Battle of Plattsburgh Interpretive Center and War of 1812 Museum, dedicated to collecting, preserving, and maintaining artifacts and publicize the significance of the Battle of Plattsburgh in our nation's history. The museum is open for tours Tuesday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and by appointment. See [www.battleofplattsburgh.org](http://www.battleofplattsburgh.org) or call 566-1814.

**36 Champlain Valley Transportation Museum – 12 Museum Way ¶** Originally established as a museum featuring Plattsburgh's Lozier Automobile Company, the Champlain Valley Transportation Museum has grown to interpret all forms of transportation, from Native American canoes to the manufacturing of modern rail cars. The museum is open for tours Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. See [www.cvtmuseum.com](http://www.cvtmuseum.com) or call 566-7575.



(35) Battle of Plattsburgh Association  
War of 1812 Museum



(37) Clinton County Historical Museum Photo Courtesy: Roger Harwood

**37 Clinton County Historical Museum – 98 Ohio Avenue ¶** The Clinton County Historical Museum interprets the county's history from the earliest recorded times to the present day through its collections of paintings, maps, furniture, and decorative arts. Special exhibits are regularly presented on North Country themes, including iron mining and other nineteenth century industries. The museum is open for tours Tuesday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by appointment. See [www.clintoncountymuseum.org](http://www.clintoncountymuseum.org) or call 561-0340.

**38 Plattsburgh Memorial Chapel** ¶ The Plattsburgh Memorial Chapel was dedicated on October 24, 1933. Located on the north end of the US Oval, it was erected in memory of those stationed at Plattsburgh who gave their lives in World War I. The Chapel is constructed of weathered bricks taken from another structure near Plattsburgh, and the wrought iron chandeliers were hand forged by the army blacksmith. The 26th infantry donated the pews and organ, and the outside chapel bell, installed in 1936, came from the battleship USS O' Brien. The Chapel reopened in 2004, eight years after the base closure, available for interfaith religious services, weddings, special events, art exhibits, and concerts.



Veterans Memorial Park at Plattsburgh Barracks

**39 Early Outposts** + Fort Brown, Fort Moreau, and Fort Scott, built during the War of 1812, once occupied the grounds surrounding the Plattsburgh Memorial Chapel.

**40 Post Cemetery** ¶ Archeologists uncovered the remains of 136 unknown soldiers while excavating on and around Plattsburgh Barracks, and reburied them here. The cemetery has a monument to the unknown dead of the War of 1812. Also buried here are 163 known soldiers, and 105 children or wives of soldiers, for a total of 445. Burials are no longer permitted in the cemetery. A full list of interments is accessible at [www.freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~frgen/clinton/plattsburgh/plattsburgh\\_barracks.htm](http://www.freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~frgen/clinton/plattsburgh/plattsburgh_barracks.htm)

**41 Route 22 near the Plattsburgh International Airport – 1812-1813 – Pike's Cantonment** ^ A War of 1812 military camp was located in this area. Called Camp Saranac, Cantonment Saranac, or Pike's Cantonment, it was burned by the British in July 1813.

## SECTION 4: Riverwalk and Cumberland Bay

A great way to discover Plattsburgh is by foot or bike. Traveling north along the Riverwalk Park reveals both the rich history and magnificent views of Lake Champlain. Riverwalk Park is lined with historic sites and markers, and a number of recreational opportunities. Bring your bird watching binoculars, canoe, fishing rod, or maybe swimming gear; and explore Cumberland Bay State Park, Plattsburgh City Beach, the Saranac River, and Wilcox Dock, for a delightful experience.

**42 9 Cumberland Avenue – circa 1800 – Oliver Davidson House** + The first known resident of this house, built by Charles Platt was Benjamin Graves, a Revolutionary War veteran and servant to George Washington. Dr. Oliver Davidson, one of Plattsburgh's first four physicians, next inhabited it. Davidson's daughter, Lucretia, was a renowned local poet, who died at the age of 17. The original house was a one-story frame structure. Subsequent owners raised, extended, and bricked it.

**43 17 Cumberland Avenue – 1797 – Kent-Delord House** ¶ This site was originally owned by William Bailey, one of the first judges and Assemblymen in Plattsburgh, and a simple dwelling was built in 1797. Colonel John Bailey, William's father, bought the house and later deeded it to his daughter, Elizabeth, the wife of Judge James Kent. The Kents sold it to Henry and Betsey Delord in 1810, who rebuilt the house as we see it today. British officers made the house their headquarters in September 1814. Guests to the home have included Thomas Macdonough, Alexander Macomb, and James Monroe. The house remained in the family until 1913 and has operated as the Kent-Delord House Museum since 1928. The museum is open for tours Tuesday – Friday noon to 3:30 p.m. and by appointment. For additional information, see [www.kentdelordhouse.org](http://www.kentdelordhouse.org) or call 561-1035.

**44 30 Cumberland Avenue – 1912 – Champlain Monument** ¶ Opposite the Kent-Delord House is a waterfront park, picnic area, and the Champlain Monument, which pays tribute to Samuel de Champlain, who first encountered the lake in 1609. This monument, designed by Hugh McLellan and consisting of a statue and pedestal standing on a terrace of Massachusetts pink granite, was dedicated on July 6, 1912.



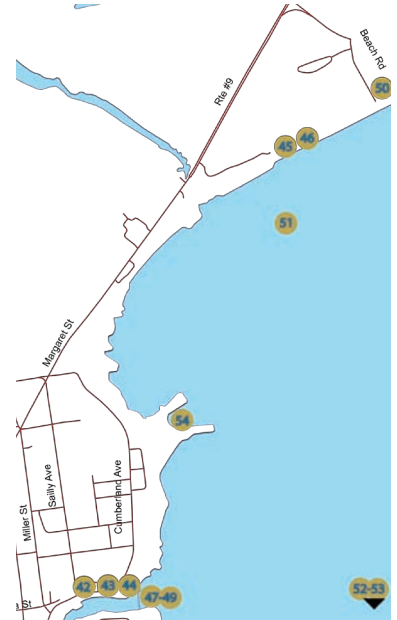
(44): Champlain Monument



Kent-Delord House Photo Courtesy: Ken M. Primard

## Riverwalk: Along the Path

- 45 Site of Native American Village** ^ The Heritage Trail turns right north of Scotion Creek and follows a paved path through the woods and sand dunes to the City Beach. It is likely that Native Americans lived along Lake Champlain as stone and clay pottery artifacts have been found nearby.
- 46 War of 1812 Graves** ^ Near the City Beach is a monument in memory of thirteen unknown American soldiers who died of cholera in 1812.
- 47 Railroad Bridge at RiverWalk** ^ Rail replaced the canals as a cheap and efficient way to ship goods. The first train crossed this bridge in 1856, only a few decades after the opening of the Champlain Canal.
- 48 Pedestrian Bridge at RiverWalk** ¶ This Bridge was built in the late 1930s and now leads to a picnic area, fishing access, and pedestrian walking paths.
- 49 Small Boat Launch at RiverWalk Park** ¶ Depending on the time of year, you could catch Atlantic salmon, brown trout, small mouth bass, Northern pike, walleye and perch, as well as rock bass and shiners. It is also an access point to the Saranac River portion of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail that extends from Fort Kent, Maine to Old Forge, New York. For additional information, see [www.northernforestcanoetrail.org](http://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org)
- 50 Plattsburgh City Beach and Cumberland Bay State Park** ¶ Very popular day-use areas with a large natural sand beach and picnic grounds with tables and grills, Cumberland Bay State Park has 152 campsites, a playground and playing fields. For additional information, see <http://nysparks.state.ny.us> or call (518) 563-5240

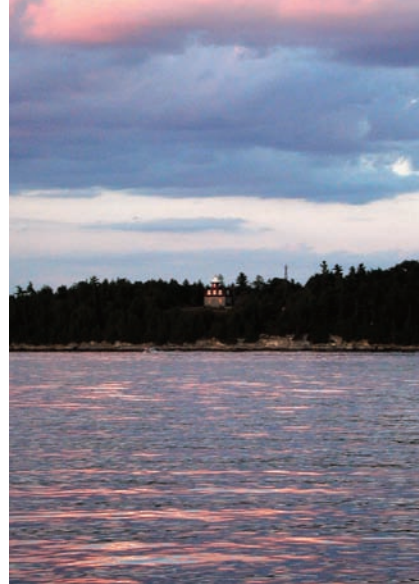


## Sites Along Lake Champlain Birding Trail

The Lake Champlain Birding Trail unifies and connects 88 birding sites along the Lake Champlain shoreline and uplands in Vermont and New York. Many sites can be found in Plattsburgh, showcasing migrating waterfowl and the numerous birds that call Lake Champlain home. To learn more visit [www.lakechamplainbirding.org](http://www.lakechamplainbirding.org)

**51 Plattsburgh Bay** ¶ Lake Champlain is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the country. Plattsburgh (Cumberland) Bay is formed by the peninsula of Cumberland Head on the north and east and by the mainland on the west, where the City of Plattsburgh is situated. The bay's open end, facing south, is about one and one-half miles wide. Plattsburgh Bay was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1960.

**52 Crab Island** ¶ Crab Island, noted for its fossilized crabs or trilobites that can be found along the limestone shoreline, is accessible by boat. Used as a hospital during the time of the Battle of Plattsburgh, Crab Island is said to be one of the few places in the world where warring British and American soldiers were buried in a common grave. Since 1988, when New York State took control of the island by eminent domain, many of the island's trails have been cleared of rampant poison ivy and the memorial flagpole re-erected.



(53) Valcour Island

Photo Courtesy: Barbara Gallagher

## Sites Along Lake Champlain Birding Trail

**53 Valcour Island ¶** Three-mile-long Valcour Island, was integral to an October, 1776 pivotal battle of the Revolutionary War. For additional information, visit [www.historiclakes.org/vbrp/vbr1.htm](http://www.historiclakes.org/vbrp/vbr1.htm). This area of Lake Champlain forms the easternmost point of the Adirondack Park. The island has become popular for sea kayaking with its sheltered coves and sandy beaches for primitive camping, birding, hiking, and fishing. NYSDEC manages a Great Blue Heron rookery and island facilities. For more information visit [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7798.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7798.html). Accessible only by boat, Valcour Island is also home to the Bluff Point Lighthouse, built in 1871 and manned by a full time light keeper until 1930. Call the Clinton County Historical Association at 561-0340 for scheduled times the lighthouse is open to the public.

**54 Cumberland Avenue – Wilcox Dock ¶** The original dock was built by Willard Wilcox, adjacent to his upland property along Cumberland Avenue, on an underwater patent issued in 1897 by New York State for the distribution of coal. New York State appropriated the dock for state canal purposes in 1914. Now under the auspices of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, this site is now open for recreation boaters, and is the only state-owned lakeshore in the City of Plattsburgh. Wilcox Dock is a designated site along the Lake Champlain Birding Trail. The mudflat, lake shore, open water habitat is home for shorebirds and waterfowl.



Great Blue Heron Photo Courtesy: John Cossick (USFWS)

## Experiencing the Saranac River

The Saranac River originates from Upper Saranac Lake, draining several small lakes and ponds, and flowing about 60 miles to its mouth in Lake Champlain. Three miles of Class II kayaking can be found from Imperial Mill Dam to Lake Champlain (Section 3 of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail), making Plattsburgh a very popular destination for water sports. When the water force is strong a kayak can be used to “surf” the rapids in certain sections of the river.

Kayaking not your thing? The river also provides cooling inner tube rides during the summer months; excellent fishing for bass, brown trout and salmon— there are some very deep pools; and Webb Island, just west of the Richard Perry Bridge on S. Catherine St., is a great location for wildlife viewing. The City is currently working to implement the Saranac River Trail for walking and biking.



(24) Access at Dock St. Landing Photo Courtesy: Chris Duley

## Boat and Kayak Rentals

### The Kayak Shack

3999 Route 9

Plattsburgh, NY 129018537

Ph: (518) 566-0505

[www.kayak-shack.com](http://www.kayak-shack.com)

### Champlain Boat Works at Snug Harbour Marina

4013 Route 9, Lake Shore Road

Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Marina Office Phone: (518) 561-2134

Marina Office Fax: (518) 561-1758

[www.saratogaboatworks.com](http://www.saratogaboatworks.com)



Photo Courtesy: Boire Designs

## Visitor Information and Services

### Amtrak Trails and Rails 1800-USA-RAIL

[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

National Park Service volunteers present commentary aboard "The Adirondack" Saturdays and Sundays. The Plattsburgh Amtrak Station is located at the D&H Railroad Station (22).

### Cruising Guide to the Hudson River, Lake Champlain & the St.

**Lawrence River** 1800-845-0028 or 802-864-7733

[guide@lakechamplainpub.com](mailto:guide@lakechamplainpub.com)

A comprehensive guide to cruising the waterway is available for purchase at major bookstores, marine stores, or online.

### Lakes to Locks Passage 518-597-9660

[www.lakestolocks.com](http://www.lakestolocks.com)

As New York's only All American Road in the collection of America's Byways, discover authentic historic, natural, cultural and recreational experiences along Lake Champlain, Lake George and the Champlain Canal.

### Lake Champlain Basin Program 802-372-3213

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

Fact Sheets and Technical documents on lake issues  
Lake Champlain Basin Atlas (CD or online)

### New York State Canal Corporation 1800-4CANAL4

[www.nyscanals.gov](http://www.nyscanals.gov)

Canal Corp. is the managing entity of NYS Erie and Champlain Canals. Contact the Canal Corp for information about traveling on the Canals.

### Plattsburgh/North Country Chamber of Commerce

518-563-1000 [www.goadirondack.com](http://www.goadirondack.com)

For visitor information on events, lodging, dining and shopping in Plattsburgh.



Back Cover: View from Naked Turtle Restaurant

Courtesy: Plattsburgh/North Country Chamber of  
Commerce

World War I Civilian Camp Recruitment Poster Courtesy: Library of Congress

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