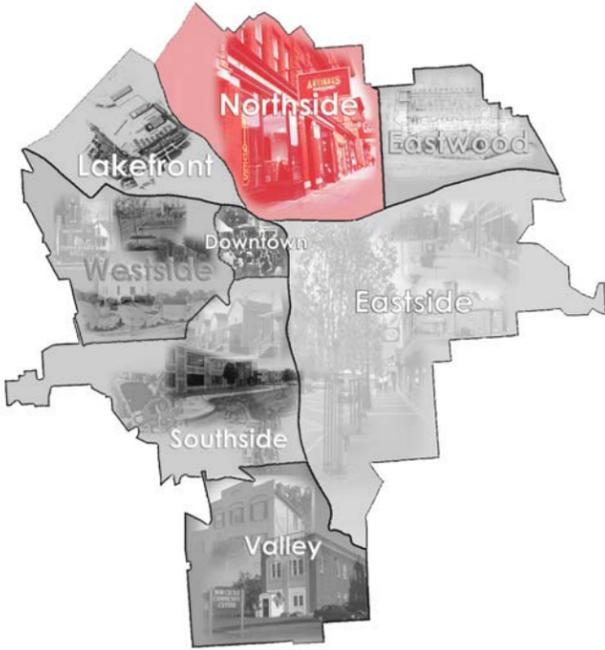


The mission of TNT is to create a comprehensive process for involving all neighborhood residents, businesses and organizations in planning for their neighborhoods.

Get Involved!



Stephanie A. Miner
Mayor

Paul Driscoll
Commissioner of Neighborhood
and Business Development



Welcome to Syracuse's First Neighborhood Washington Square

**The TNT Area 7 Planning Council
meets monthly on the
4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Grant Middle School Library
2400 Grant Blvd.**

**The Washington Square Neighborhood
Task Force of TNT Area 7 meets on the
3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the
Northside Community Police Center,
255 Wolf St.**

Meetings may be subject to change if necessary.

For more information, contact
TNT Coordinator Babette Baker at the Dept. of
Neighborhood and Business Development
(315) 448-8173

E-mail: bbaker@ci.syracuse.ny.us

Website: [www.syracuse.ny.us/
WashingtonSquare.aspx](http://www.syracuse.ny.us/WashingtonSquare.aspx)

Updated April 2011



The **John Lynch House** (c. 1860) on Washington Square illustrates the potential for historic restoration that exists in the Washington Square neighborhood.



Washington Square Neighborhood

Syracuse's Northside has been the home to generations of many nations, starting with the Haudenosaunee as well as providing a gateway for immigrants from Ireland, Germany, Italy, Vietnam, Laos, Bosnia, Sudan, Bhutan, Nepal and many more to come. The Northside strives for unity through diversity, maintaining our traditions and promoting family values; we celebrate our history as a home of many cultures.

The Northside's business districts are being revitalized and neighborhood groups throughout the area work effectively to enhance City living.

A diverse housing market includes the new lofts of Little Italy, renovated historic residences, and new home construction complementing existing housing.

The Washington Square neighborhood draws energy from its proximity to many of Syracuse's popular amenities. Alliance Stadium is the home of the Syracuse Chiefs and the site of other sports events and concerts. The Regional Market has become a year-round destination for visitors from the region as has the Carousel Center mall. Thousands of travelers annually arrive by bus and train through the William F. Walsh Regional Transportation Center. The restaurants and shops of North Salina Street's "Little Italy" are prospering. St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center is a major employer and anchor of the Northside community.

Alliance Bank Stadium



Regional Market



Little Italy on N. Salina Street

Washington Square

A History

The establishment of Washington Square Park had its roots in the exploitation of the salt springs located at the southeast end of Onondaga Lake, in the territory of the Onondaga Nation, the capital and center of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy). Settlers, many from New England, came in the 1790s and established a community on higher ground, an area they called "Salt Point." This became the Village of Salina (now the First Ward of Syracuse), and its core was the Washington Square Park neighborhood.

Washington Square Park, originally known as Centre Square, was laid out in 1799 and functioned as the village green. The park was the site of the first public school within the present city limits, built in 1805 and now called the Old Red School House. The congregation of the First Ward Presbyterian Church – now Westminster Presbyterian – worshipped in the school house until they built a church on the northwest corner of the square in 1822.

Washington Square was never a business center, but served as the social center of Salina. The Oswego Canal (1828) skirted the neighborhood as a northwestern extension of the Erie Canal (1825) and was the primary transportation artery for the area's salt and other products.

After the 1860s the local salt industry declined, and the area around the square lost its social status. However, many of the salt baron homes still remain on the surrounding streets, and the park itself evolved over the years. The late 19th century square became a classic Victorian era city park with ornate fencing, shrubbery, gazebos and drinking fountains.

Kirkpatrick Monument

The Park's main addition came in 1908 with the erection of the "Kirkpatrick Memorial Fountain," sculpted by Gail Sherman Corbett. William Kirkpatrick Jr. willed the money to erect a monument in honor of his father, William Kirkpatrick Sr., a prominent businessman and salt manufacturer. According to the will, this and two other smaller monuments in Northside parks were intended to pay tribute to the native Onondagas.

The Washington Square Park monument/fountain centers around a bronze drum-like sculpture that depicts three Onondagas introducing the salt springs to Father Le Moyne and his French compatriot in 1654. The monument represents a significant and complex cross-cultural experience, as the Onondagas are the original inhabitants of the land and the growth of Syracuse was due to the salt industry.

The unveiling ceremony on July 1, 1908 attracted a large audience who were addressed by the mayor Syracuse and several other dignitaries.

By the 1930s, the fountain had deteriorated. In the late 1960s the monument was temporarily removed after a car accidentally struck the base. In 1972, the bronze sculpture was returned to a spot several feet from its original place by the roadside.

Washington Square Task Force

In 2005, local citizens formed the Washington Square Neighborhood Task Force to establish goals for the revitalization of the park and the surrounding neighborhood. Improvements within the park were made with the help of the City's Parks Department.

In 2007, a \$50,000 grant through State Senator John DeFrancisco was obtained to refurbish the monument and restore it to a new base that duplicated the original. The sculpture was rededicated in the summer of 2009.

This project is a significant link to adjacent redevelopment efforts in progress or planned – Franklin Square, Inner Harbor, Little Italy, Armory Square and the Onondaga Creekwalk. Hopefully, this will also bring attention to the historic value of Washington Square. – Richard Zalewski

Honoring the Onondaga



Doctor William Kirkpatrick was Superintendent of the Onondaga Salt Springs during the years 1805-6 and from 1810 to 1831. This fountain has been erected in accordance with the last will and testament of his son William Kirkpatrick dated Oct-11-1889: I direct that my executors shall erect or cause to be erected in Washington Park in the First Ward (where I was born) of the City of Syracuse a memorial fountain the general design of such fountain to represent or symbolize the Onondaga Indians discovering to the white men the salt springs as related in the historical narrative of the relations of the Jesuits and later by the historian Parkman – I do this to perpetuate the memory of my father the late Doctor William Kirkpatrick and his long relations with the early history of the Onondaga Salt Springs.



The Jesuite missionary Père Simon Le Moine under date of Aug-16-1654 narrates as follows: We arrive at the head of a small lake in a great basin half dried up. We taste the water of a spring which the natives dare not drink saying that there is within it a demon which renders it foul. Having tasted of it I found that it was a fountain of salt water and in fact we made some salt from it as natural as sea salt a sample of which we are carrying to Quebeck.

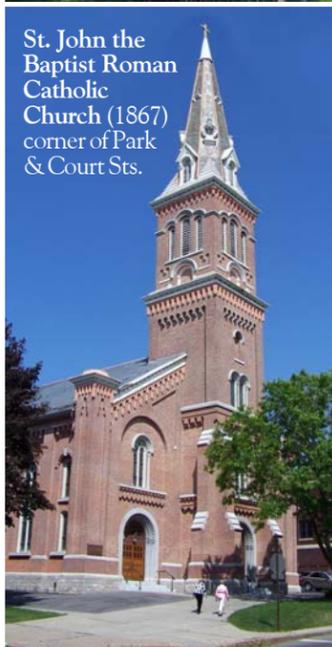
– Text of the inscription on the Kirkpatrick Monument. The digitally-enhanced photograph shows the tableau that circles the monument as it might appear flattened.



Parke S. Avery House (1850)
1509 Park St.



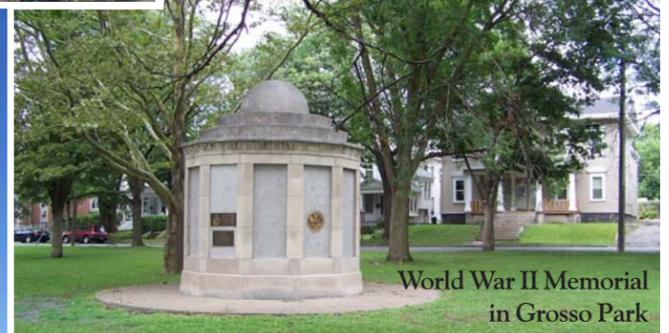
Amos L. Mason House (1864) 700 Court St.



St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church (1867) corner of Park & Court Sts.



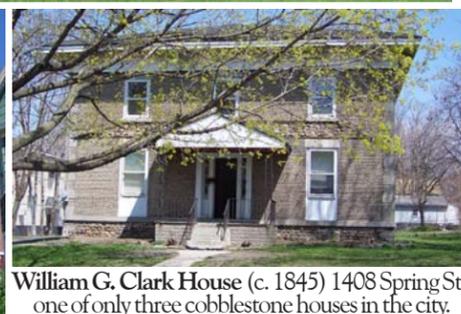
Westminster Presbyterian (1855) 1601 Park St.



World War II Memorial in Grosso Park



First Ward Methodist Church (1865) 510 Bear St.



William G. Clark House (c. 1845) 1408 Spring St., one of only three cobblestone houses in the city.



Washington Square Park on a summer afternoon.