

MAIN STREET

6. Baker Memorial Fountain

8. Time Capsule

5. Gazebo

7. Memorial Trees

4. Fire Bell



1. Court House

COURTHOUSE SQUARE

14. Historic Marker

3. Veterans Monument

2. Civil War Monument

FRONT STREET

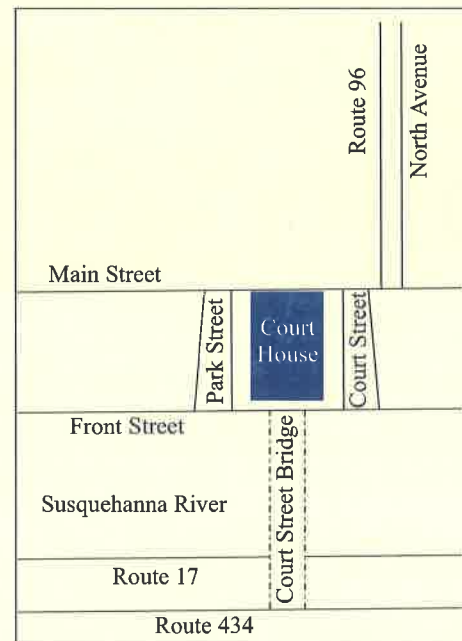
SUSQUEHANNA BRIDGE RIVER

15. Estey & Munroe 16. Parking Lot 12. Owego Academy 11. Old Garage 10. Jail 9. Sheriff's Res. 13. County Clerk's Office

COURT STREET



Courthouse 1872-1931 with Towers



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Walking Tour

Courthouse Square

Owego, N.Y.



Tioga County Courthouse
Erected 1872

History of Courthouse Square

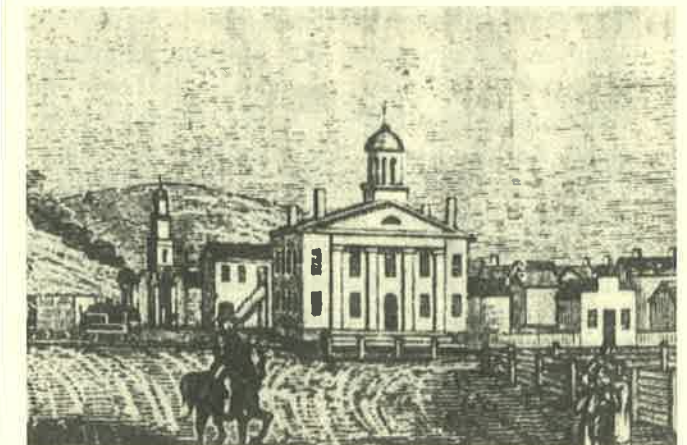
On February 28, 1797 James McMaster deeded the park tract to "the trustees of Owego settlement" for a public ground. It contained approximately three acres, which included all of the land now known as Park St., the Courthouse Square, and Court St.

The first burying ground was at the southeast corner of Main and Court, approximately as far south as the present location of the County Clerk's office. By 1817 the bodies were re-interred to other cemeteries. Over the years, when it was necessary to build or renovate in the area, bones were discovered from some of the graves that were overlooked.

Courthouse Square is aptly named, as it housed two courthouses, the first one built in 1823 (torn down in the 1870's) and the present one, built in 1872. The Courthouse is the tallest building in Tioga county. In the late 1940s the county legislators planned to tear it down and build a new courthouse on the east side of Park St., where a parking lot now exists and where the Congregational Church once stood. Even though plans were drawn up by architects, the new building never materialized because of the expense.

For a time, while the Owego Academy was in use, the students played in the park. This was necessary because a small pig farm was located right next to the Academy on the south side of the building. After the Academy closed, it was used as offices for lawyers and town officials. Today, it is used as a Court Annex.

Probably the biggest event ever held in the courthouse was for the Apalachin Gangland Convention. The FBI and police raided a barbecue at the home of Joseph Barbara, Sr. in Apalachin on November 14, 1957. The charges ranged from drug dealing to murder. Newspapers declared that the roundup of the hoodlums touched off one of the most widespread crime investigations in the country's history. Trials went on for months, bringing national attention to the Courthouse and to Tioga County.



Owego's First Courthouse