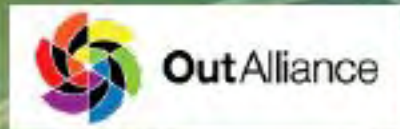


3rd LGBTQ Historic Walking Tour

Resistance in the '70's: Have We Come Full Circle?



LGBTQ LANDMARKS INITIATIVE

Sharing our Pride of Place

The Landmark Society launched this groundbreaking new initiative in 2016 to educate the Rochester community about the history of the local LGBTQ movement and to enhance the sense of pride about the place that our city occupies in the fight for civil rights & human dignity throughout our nation's history. Just as Rochester is celebrated for the instrumental role that it has played in the abolitionist and women's rights movements, so should it be recognized for its contributions to LGBTQ equality. The Landmark Society, with its preservation-based mission, is uniquely positioned to honor this history. We'd like to thank our partners that worked together to plan this walking tour, the City of Rochester, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Out Alliance, as well as our additional partners on the initiative: ImageOut, LGBT Giving Circle, Q Center at RIT, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Susan B Anthony Center at U of R, Trillium Health, U.S. Assemblyman Harry Bronson, U.S. Senator Kirstin Gillibrand, and WXXI & The Little.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



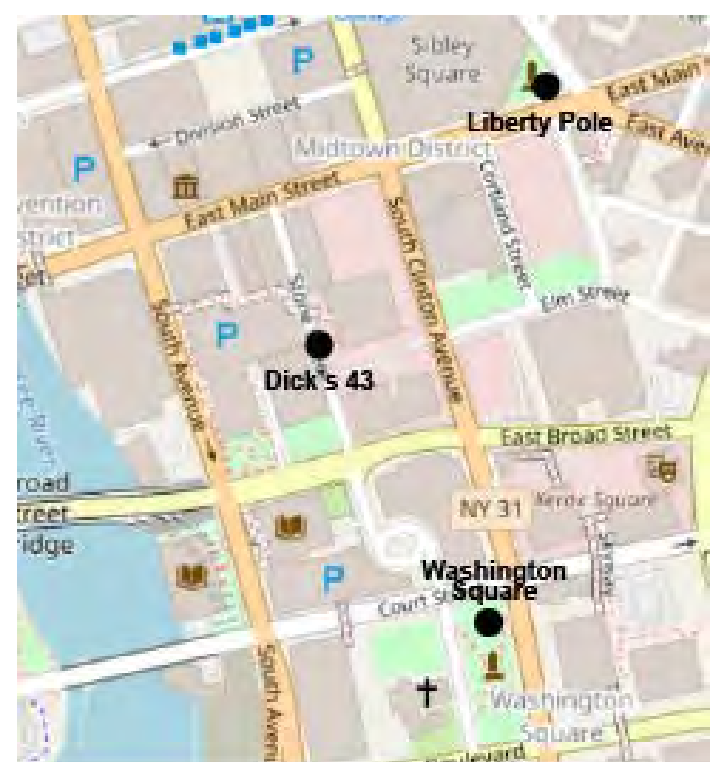
Contact: Larry Francer - lfrancer@landmarksociety.org or 585.546.7029 X14, to get involved in the LGBTQ Landmarks project.

TOUR PATH

In this 3rd Historic Walking Tour, you'll discover the story of the LGBTQ Resistance movement that took place in Rochester's Washington Square Neighborhood and Midtown District in the past decade and the '70's.

The tour begins in the Washington Square Neighborhood, home to elegant theaters, plush watering holes, and fashionable shopping before and after World War II. Our first stop is Washington Square Park and then we will go to 43 Stone Street, the former home of Dicks Tavern. Next we walk to the Midtown District, the psychological center of downtown Rochester, to our third stop, the former site of the Top of the Plaza Restaurant in Midtown Tower.

The rebirth of the Washington Square neighborhood dates back to the '80's. Today the area is one of the most desirable and attractive commercial locations in downtown. The Midtown District, once the shopping destination for the entire county with Midtown Plaza and the Sibley Building, is now being revitalized to become once again a center of downtown activity with residential, office, and retail development either completed, in progress, or planned.





Midtown

“The City of Rochester is proud to continue the legacy of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass and to welcome all voices in charting our future.”

- Lovely Warren, Mayor of Rochester, NY

Designed by Victor Gruen, Midtown Plaza, a vision for the future, was dedicated on April 10, 1962 as the first downtown indoor mall in the United States. It included a skyscraper office building, which at one time held an upscale hotel and the Top of the Plaza restaurant on the 14th floor. Early tenants, included B. Forman Co., McCurdy's, Wegmans, Lincoln Rochester Bank (now Chase Bank), the United States Postal Service, and Trailways. In the Spring of 1971, in response to a raid at Jim's Bar on Front St., the Gay Liberation Front decided to protest the unacceptable law that men and women of the same sex could not dance together, by going as a group to the Top of the Plaza, a dinner and dance club at the time, as couples to blend in. The group of couples then got up to dance and at a pre-arranged signal, the couples switched partners so that gay men were dancing with gay men and lesbians were dancing with lesbians. The other customers did not seem bothered or disturbed by this at all. It was only after Bob Osborne and Patty Evans began passing out literature that the group was asked to leave.



Dick's 43 - 12 Front St.

“You need to know your history to be adequately prepared for the future!”

**- Carol Ebersole-Weiss,
HRC National Board of Governors & Western NY Coordinator**

Dick's Tavern, 12 Front St., was one of the first gay bars in Rochester. Front Street, known for its meat markets, stores, bargain-priced restaurants, betting parlors, pawnshops, and bars, was called the city's Skid Row. At night, Front St. was a gay mecca. Dick's Tavern owned by the mob connected Gruttadaria Family was THE bar to go to to chat with friends. Owners Martha and Dominic "Dick" ran a tight ship. In the late 1960's urban renewal removed Front St. from the Rochester landscape replaced by Genesee Crossroads Park. Dick's Tavern and other "underground" establishments were forced to relocate to central downtown locations. Dick's Tavern moved to 43 Stone St. with a new name. In 1979, replaced by a parking garage, Dick's 43 Lounge was moved again to 503 South Avenue where in 1986 it was set afire to cover up a robbery and a triple murder.



Washington Square

“The Out Alliance is proud to partner with the City of Rochester, the Landmark Society, and HRC on the Historic LGBTQ Walking Tours to recognize Rochester LGBTQ early history of resistance and advocacy.”

- Out Alliance, Rochester, NY



In 1817, Elisha Johnson, one of the first settlers and land owners in Rochesterville (old Rochester), set aside some of his land to form the Town's first park. It has always been, from the very beginning, a place for public gatherings with Frederic Douglas as a frequent orator. Today, the Washington Square Neighborhood

has provided many movements – Anti - War Movement, Black Lives Matter, Women's March, March For Our Lives, Equality ROC, the Rochester Occupy Movement, Marriage Equality, and the Anti-Potus Rally in January, 2017 - with rallying point where Rochesterians continue to raise their voice for equality and justice for all. Washington Square Park is home to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, dedicated in 1892 as a tribute to those who died during the Civil War with a statue of Abraham Lincoln at its center, and home to summer concerts and various ceremonies.

