



The story of Gloversville is deeply ingrained in the city's history as an industrial town.

It grew from a tiny frontier village, formerly known as Kingsborough (now Kingsborough Historic District) in the 1810s to a booming industrial city of 30,000 people in the 20th Century.

Until the early 1960s, it produced up to ninety percent of the leather dress gloves in North America, with over 13,000 people employed in the leather and glove industries and related enterprises.

Today, Downtown Gloversville's community acknowledges its impressive past while enacting positive change and is paving the way for the next age of prosperity.

Walk through Gloversville's history on an easy route while exploring today's businesses.

# Downtown Gloversville Historic Walk



*Collaborated in partnership with*



FULTON COUNTY CENTER FOR REGIONAL GROWTH

**EXPLORING HISTORY  
IN THE  
DOWNTOWN CORRIDOR**

## City of Gloversville Downtown Core



## Welcome to Gloversville!

Did you know that Teddy Roosevelt, F.D.R, and Harpo Marx once walked the streets of Gloversville? Come and view the same buildings that a young MGM Studio head Samuel Goldwyn once saw in Downtown Gloversville!

This 1-mile tour contains 9 stops that showcases the city that was home to the industry that not only gloved the nation, but also the world. The city was also home to the Kingsborough Hotel that lodged men that went on to become president.

Home to a large historic commercial district that is centered on the "Four Corners" of Main and Fulton Streets, the Downtown Gloversville Historic District has many buildings that range in age and are architecturally significant from pre-1850 on.

A bonus stop, located at the intersection of State Street and Kingsboro Avenue, extends the journey to a 4-mile tour.



# 1. The Palace Diner

## 62 S. Main St.

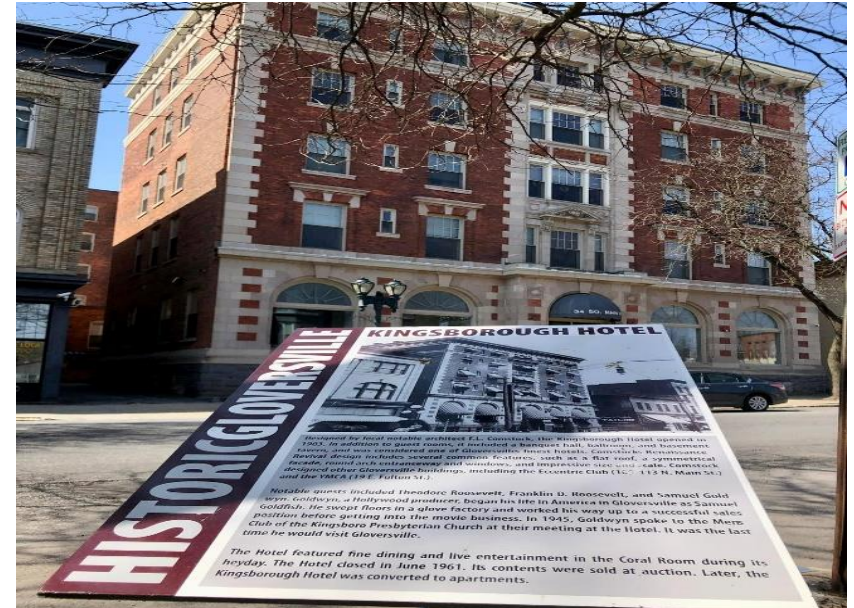
Albert Main opened the Palace Diner in 1923. The lunch cart was built by the Jerry O'Mahoney Dining Car Company of Bayonne, N.J., and was shipped by railroad to Fonda. It was later transported by truck to its current location. The original diner was a railroad car that was a 24-hour eatery. It served employees in the leather and glove industries.



# 2. Kingsborough Hotel

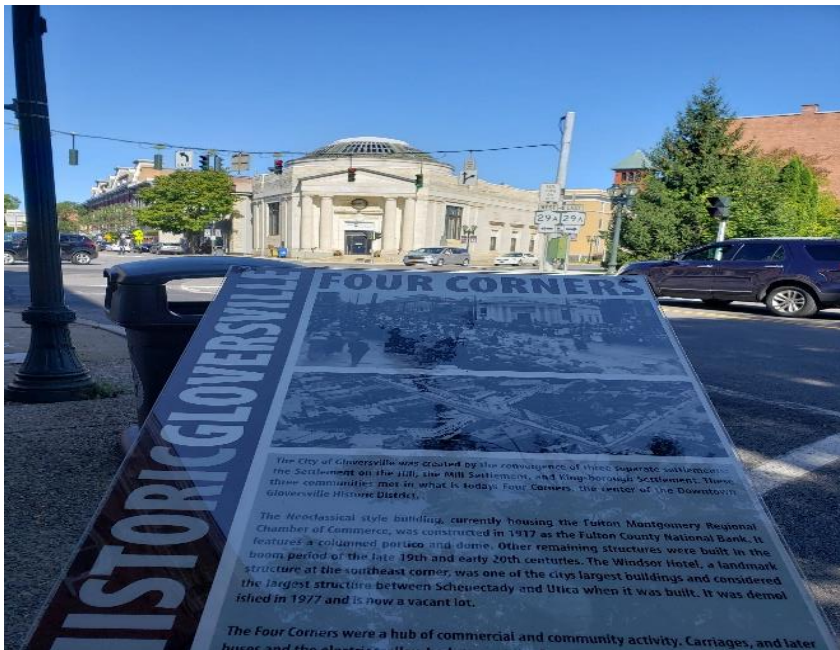
## 34 S. Main St.

Opening in 1903, the Kingsborough Hotel boasted of elaborate guest rooms, a banquet hall, ballroom and basement tavern. Notable guests included Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Samuel Goldwyn. Goldwyn, a Hollywood producer, began his life in America as Samuel Goldfish who swept Gloversville factory floors before moving up into office positions and beyond to the movie industry.



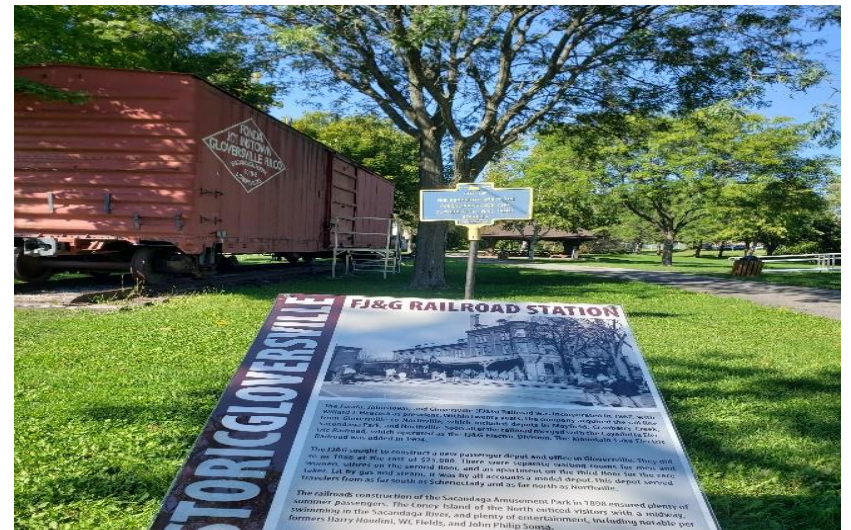
### 3. Four Corners 2 S. Main St.

The City of Gloversville was created by the convergence of three separate entities: the Settlement on the Hill, the Mill Settlement, and Kingsborough Settlement. These three communities met in what is today's Four Corners, the center of the Downtown Gloversville Historic District.



### 4. Trail Station Park West Fulton Street

The Fonda, Johnstown, and Gloversville (FJ&G) Railroad was incorporated in 1867. Within 20 years, the company acquired the rail line from Gloversville to Northville. The FJ&G constructed a new passenger depot and office in Gloversville in 1888 at the cost of \$25,000. Lit by gas and steam, it was by all accounts "a model depot."





## 5. Bleecker St. Square 33 Bleecker St.

Land that was dominated by the large home of Captain David Spaulding, an extensive manufacturer in Fulton County and also a Civil War veteran, became known as Bleecker Street Square. Cpt. Spaulding often held drills for the local soldiers on his large front lawn. Bleecker Street Square later became a bustling commercial center showcasing a number of restaurants, stores, hotels, and jewelers.



## 6. Memorial Hall & Glove Theatre 42- 26 N. Main St.

Constructed in 1881, the opera house at 40 N. Main St. brought a variety of celebrities to Gloversville, including John Phillip Sousa and Boxing Hall of Famer "Gentleman" Jim Corbett. It hosted events, including speeches from future president Theodore Roosevelt. When the Schines purchased the neighboring Glove Theatre, they obtained Memorial Hall and covered the opera house to 3 floors of offices, as well as hosting a private screening room. The Glove Theatre, built in the early 1900s, started as a live performance venue for concerts and vaudeville.





## 7. Former City Hall 44 N. Main St.

City Hall, once located in this building, was designed in 1885 in the Queen Anne style. A young Arthur "Harpo" Marx of the Marx Brothers spent time in the jail cell thanks to a scheme that a business partner of his was running. He was eventually released when the misunderstanding was discovered.



## 8. Gloversville High 90 N. Main St.

Known as the former Gloversville Union Seminary, in 1868, District No. 16 purchased the building and started Gloversville Union School. As the school grew, the original was replaced by a 3-story brick building in 1875 and another was constructed just north of the building in 1883. The south building was razed to make room for a new high school in 1906.



## 9. Gloversville Library 58 E. Fulton St.

Constructed in 1904, the public library is one of thousands that Andrew Carnegie funded. The building is designed in the Beaux Arts style by Albert Randolph Ross. The facade, made with limestone and tan brick, gleamed when the building was new. In 2005, a Capital Campaign renovated the building and highlighted the Carnegie building's historic feature.



## BONUS STOP: Kingsborough District 256 Kingsboro Ave.

Kingsborough was one of the earliest settlements in Fulton County. Originally part of Sir William Johnson's expansive land holdings, after the Revolutionary War it was settled by families from New England. Rev. Elisha Yale's informal 1803 census states: "Kingsborough is a pleasant society, 5 by 7 miles in extent, about 50 miles from Albany, nine north of the Mohawk, containing 233 families, and about 400 souls. Of the families, 191 are of English descent, 23 Scotch, 14 Dutch, and 5 Irish."

