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 the Kingsborough Historic District) in the 1810s to a booming industrial city of roughly 30,000 people in the early 20th century. Until the early 1960s, it produced up to 90% 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. Contact us to learn more about Gloversville!

Collaborated in partnership with

CRG

Gloversville:
PLACE FOCUSED.
PEOPLE LED.

FULTON COUNTY CENTER FOR REGIONAL GROWTH

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Downtown Gloversville Historic Walk

EXPLORING THE DOWNTOWN CORRIDOR

Welcome to Gloversville!

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

This 1-mile tour contains 9 stops that showcases the city that was not only was home to the industry that once gloved the nation, but also home to the Kingsborough Hotel that gave lodging to men who would go on to be 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. History and architecture enthusiasts will enjoy viewing the structures that include a variety of popular Neoclassical, Second Empire, and Art Deco.

A bonus stop is located at Veterans Park off the intersections of State Street and Kingsboro Avenue. If you include this stop on your walking tour, it is almost 4 miles of healthy hiking throughout the city!
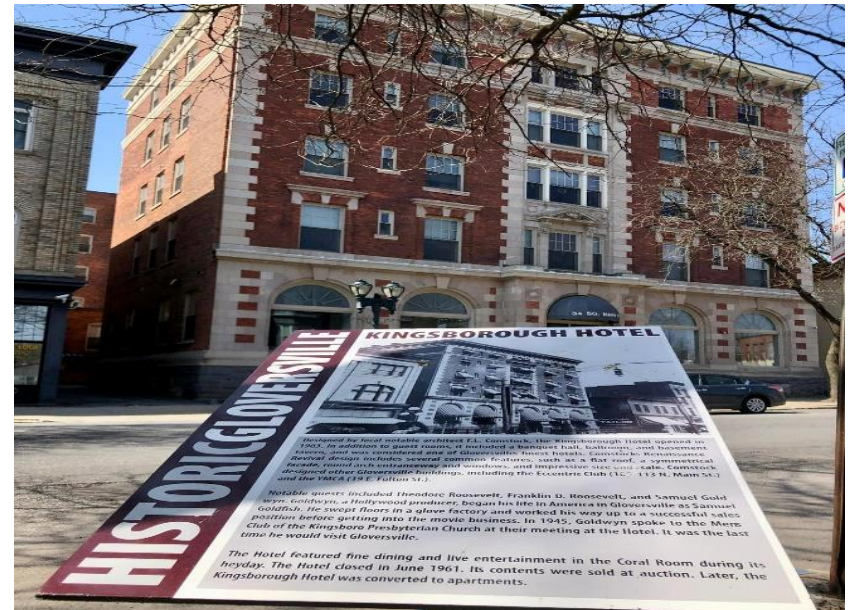
1. The Palace Diner
62 S. Main St.

Albert Main opened the Palace in 1923. The lunch cart was built by the Jerry O'Mahony Dining Car Company of Bayonne, NJ, and was shipped by railroad to Fonda, then transported by truck to its current location. The original diner was a railroad car and as a 24-hour eatery, it served employees in the leather and glove industry.
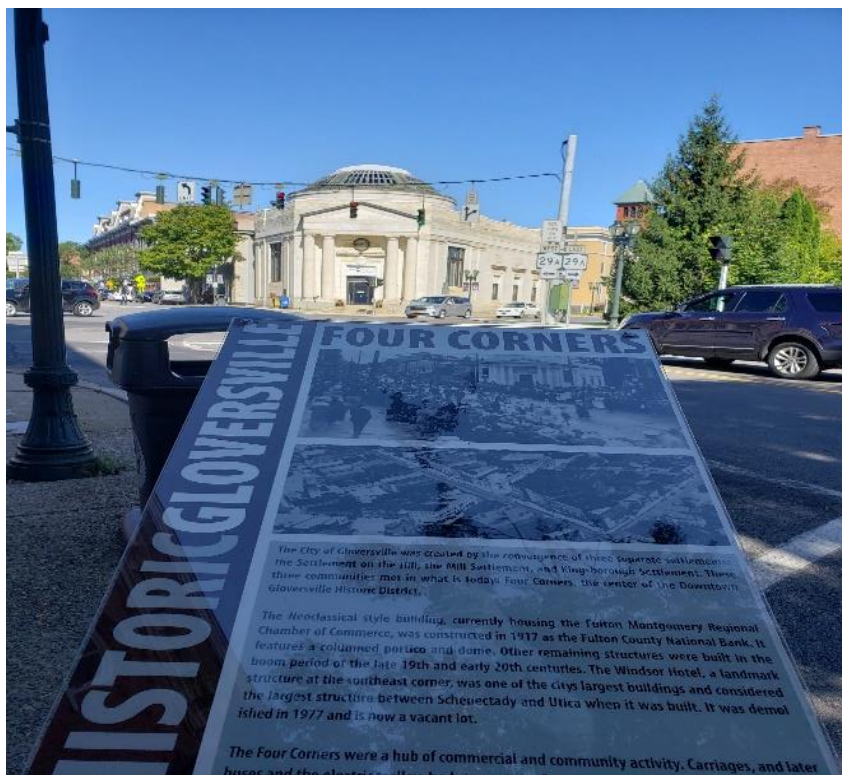

2. Kingsborough Hotel
34 S. Main St.

The Kingsborough Hotel opened in 1903 and boasted of elaborate guest rooms, a banquet hall, ballroom, and basement tavern. It was known as one of Gloversville's finest hotels. Notable guests included Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Samuel Goldwyn. Goldwyn, a Hollywood producer, began his life in America in Gloversville as Samuel Goldfish. He swept floors in a glove factory and worked his way up to a successful sales position before getting into the movie business.
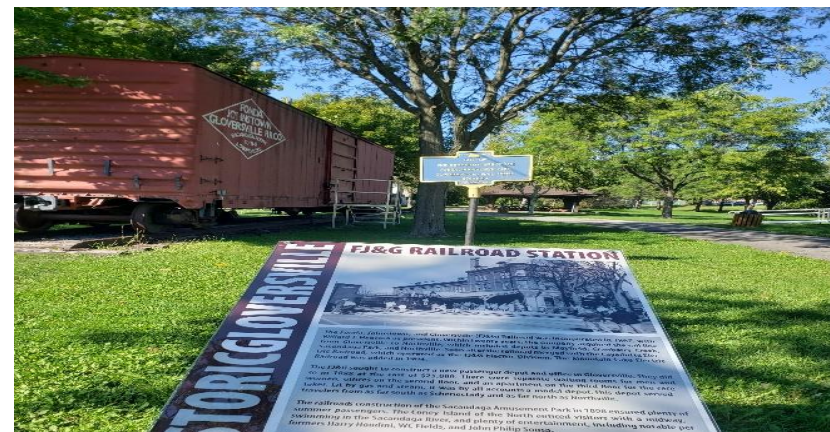
3. Four Corners
2 S. Main St.

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.
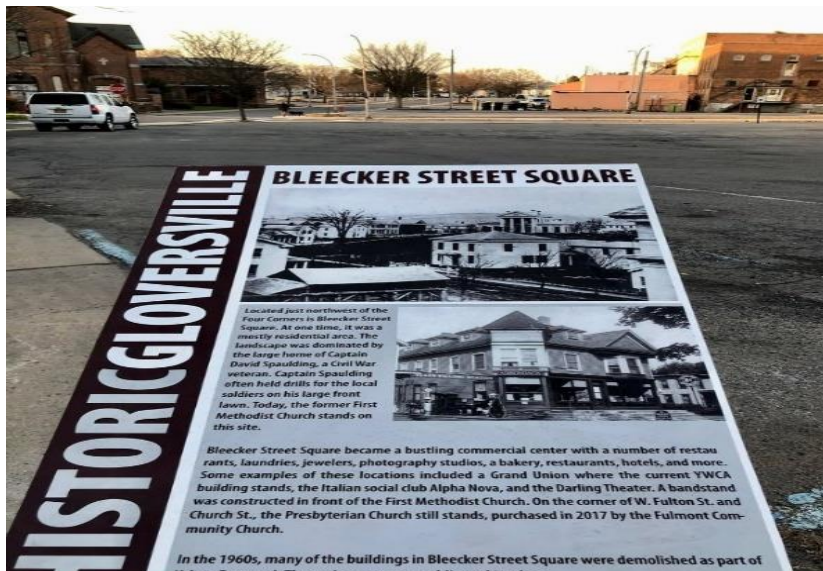

4. Trail Station Park
West Fulton Street

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, which included depots in Mayfield, Cranberry Creek, Sacandaga Park, and Northville. Soon after the railroad merged with the Cayadutta Electric Railroad, which operated as the FJ&G Electric Division. The Mountain Lake Electric Railroad was added in 1904. 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 later a Civil War veteran, became known as Bleecker Street Square. Captain 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, jewelers, and more.

6. Memorial Hall & Glove Theatre
42 N. Main St.

Constructed in 1881, the opera house on the second floor brought a variety of celebrities to Gloversville, including John Phillip Sousa and Boxing Hall of Famer "Gentleman" Jim Corbett. It hosted political events, including future president Theodore Roosevelt. When the Schines purchased the neighboring Glove Theater, they obtained Memorial Hall and converted the opera house to three floors of offices, as well as a private screening room. The Glove Theater, built in 1914 started as a live performance venue for concerts and vaudeville.

7. Former City Hall 44 N. Main St.

City Hall was once located in this building, 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 a business partner of his was running, but was eventually released.

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 three-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 over 3,500 that Andrew Carnegie funded in America alone. The building is designed in the Beaux Arts style by Albert Randolph Ross. The façade, 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: Kingsboro Historic District
256 Kingsboro Ave.

Kingsboro 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 tells us: "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 1,400 souls. Of the families, 191 are of English descent, 23 Scotch, 14 Dutch, and 5 Irish."