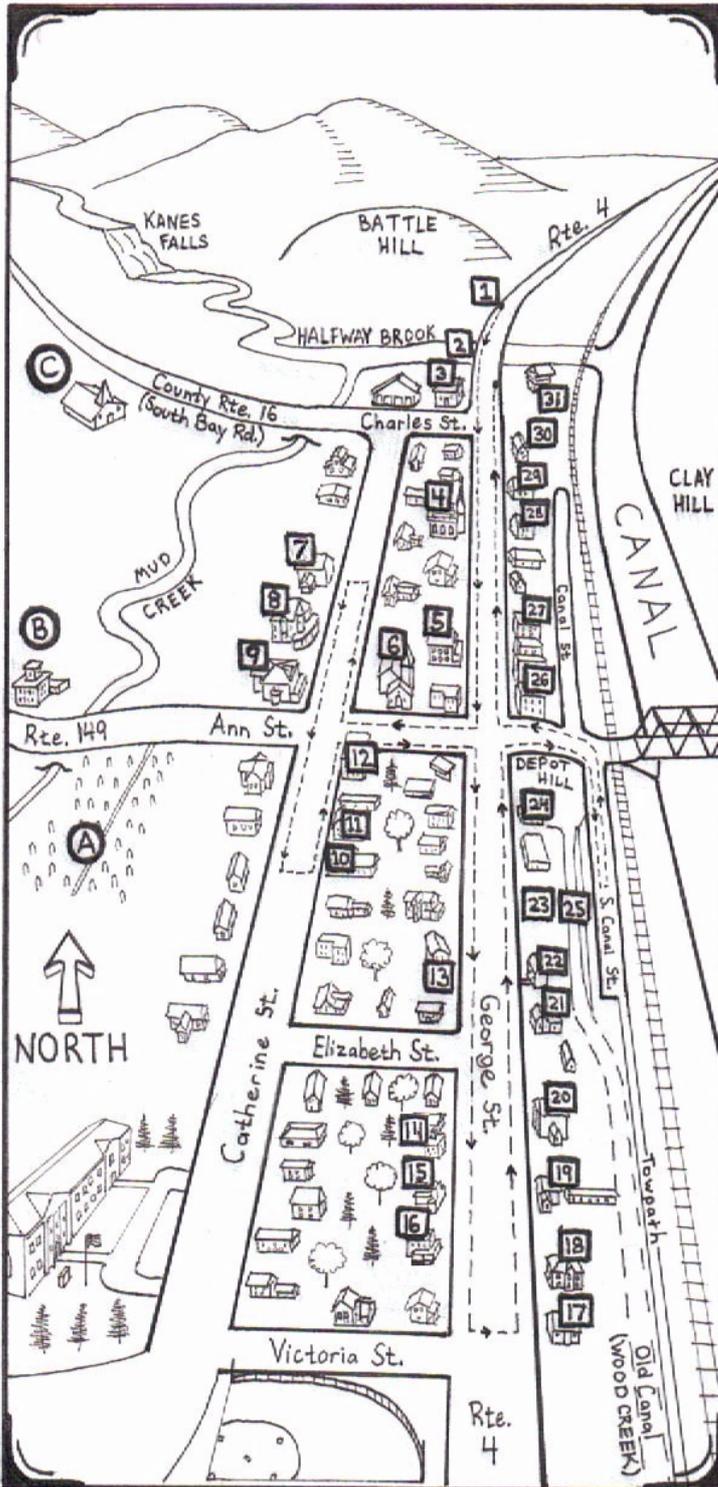


# Fort Ann: 300 Years of History

Taking a walk around the village, one sees a variety of early architectural styles, including Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Second Empire and Queen Anne.



**1. Begin at the signboard .3 miles north of the traffic light on Route 4.**

**2. Halfway Brook:** Marker reads "Half-Way Creek used in the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars."

**3. 4 Charles St.:** Federal-style building of fieldstone and brick, built in 1840. Rebuilt from the original fort house, which stood within the walls of Fort Anne during the Revolution. Facing the front of the building, you can see the marker for the "Old Well – used in fort site. Built before Revolutionary War by Queen Anne of England."

On the corner of Charles and George streets, the marker reads "Fort Anne – Gateway to North – Here stood five forts, 1690-1777."

**4. 85 George St.:** St. Ann's Catholic Church was incorporated into the Diocese of Albany in 1847. Mass was first celebrated once a month at the Joy residence on Catherine Street and, for many years, at the John Monahan farm. Bishop McNierney laid the cornerstone in 1890. Dedicated in 1891, the church cost \$4,500. It was a mission church until 1920, when Father Burns was assigned as the resident pastor.



**5. 20-22 George St.:** Memie's Pub is one of only two package store/bars in New York State. Has original mahogany bar. An honor roll board for World War II veterans was located in the parking lot at right.

**6. 5 Ann St.:** United Protestant Church. The First Methodist Episcopal Church was built on this site in 1838. In 1911, a fire started in a shed nearby and soon consumed the church. The present church was built on the same site. In 1956, the Baptist Church and the Fort Ann Methodist Church federated to form the United Protestant Church of Fort Ann. The bell has several inscriptions dated 1929, including names of contributors.



**7. 77 Catherine St.:** Greek Revival home built around 1858. Housed doctor's office in 1910. Note stepping stone and hitching post.



**8. 73 Catherine St.:** Queen Anne-style house built in the early 1900s.

**9. 69 Catherine St.:** Queen Anne-style home built in the 1870s. Has frosted oval window and two leaded windows. Previously used as a funeral home and a doctor's office. Features original woodwork and winding staircase. Has original blackout shades from the 1940s.

**10. 52 Catherine St.:** This Federal-style home has beaverboard ceilings and original walls.

**11. 54 Catherine St.:** Built before 1843. The earliest known owner, David Rice, ran the cashmere factory at Kane's Falls. Later, a telephone office, operated by Lottie Farr, was located in the front room of the house.

**12. 64 Catherine St.:** Built in 1901 as the Odd Fellows Hall, this Federal and Gothic Revival-style building was used in the past as a town hall, a gym and an orchestra rehearsal hall. Also housed the American Legion Post.



**13. 35 George St.:** Federal-style home, once the Scott Rooming & Boarding House. Mrs. Scott provided the boarders with a room and noon dinners. Boarders took turns purchasing the food and planning the meals.

**14. 15 George St.:** Built in 1858 of wood, marble and slate. Original owner was John Hall, Fort Ann's first banker. Original hitching posts and stepping stone are still present. Note that the "N" in "JOHN" is backwards.

**15. 13 George St.:** 1900s Second Empire design. Once had 10-foot-high ceilings.

**16. 11 George St.:** Italianate-style built in the mid-1800s.

**17. 10 George St.:** Home acquired by the First Baptist Church in 1904 to be used as a parsonage. Sold to private owners in 2007.



**18. 12 George St.:** Constructed in 1906 of wooden clapboards, with cypress used throughout the interior. Has open staircase.

**19. 16 George St.:** This home was constructed in the 1800s. The Queen Anne Motel was added in the 1950s. In 1999, it became the From the Heart Motel.

**20. 18 George St.:** Greek Revival home, built in 1892 by Priam Sheldon. Received Certificate of Historic Preservation award in 1995. Currently Mason's Funeral Home.

**21. 34 George St.:** The original Colonial-style house, with slate roof, was built in 1850. The addition was constructed in the early 1900s.

**22. 36 George St.:** Old Stone House Library, built in 1825 by Willis Swift. In 1922, the building was given to the town by George Knapp to be used as a community house/library. Note the fort-like construction, with no windows in the side walls. Walls are 20 inches thick and window casings and floors are all original. The stones are bound tightly with the same mortar used when laid. Said to be a stop on the Underground Railroad.



**23. Village park and marker –** Site of the First Baptist Church, erected in 1874 and destroyed by fire in 1955. Historical marker contains fragment of the church bell.

Granite monument honors local veterans. Two smaller memorials are dedicated to Medal of Honor servicemen.

**24. 60 George St.:** Mount Hope Phoenix Lodge No. 96 was warranted in 1806. It continued until 1834, when its warrant was forfeited due to the rise of anti-Masonic sentiment nationally. It was again warranted in 1851. The original building had three stories until a fire destroyed it in 1956.

**25. Canal, Locks and Towpath:** The Champlain Canal was opened in 1823 with two locks south of Depot Hill (hill on Ann St.) and one to the north, as well as a dry dock. Their remnants are still visible. There are two canal lock walls that run parallel to South Canal Street, north-south about 100 feet from the shoulder of Ann Street. Barges were drawn by horses and mules along the towpath on the west side of the canal. These animals were changed every 12 miles. There were 8 teams at each stop and each team had four hours' rest after each trip. The drivers earned \$18 per month. The canal was upgraded to handle wider and deeper barges in 1916, eliminating the need for these locks.



**26. 70 George St.:** Towpath Antiques, in Greek Revival style, built in 1839. In 1880, it was a grocery and feed store. On the rear of the building are several loading doors, as well as the name "S.B. Corning Groceries." Once housed the post office, to which the postmaster would bring the mail from the railroad station in a wheelbarrow.

**27. 80 George St.:** The Fort Ann Town Hall sign depicts incorporation in 1808. It is reported that it once had a basketball court and a jail cell inside.

**28. 96 George St.:** Built in 1818, this house was a single-family residence. During the 1920s, the turret was added. In 1885, Haviland Mfg. Co., one of only two manufacturers of ping-pong paddles in the U.S., established its plant behind this home.

**29. 98 George St.:** In 1820, this home was built with finished stone. In the early 1900s, the building was used as a doctor's office.

**30. 100 George St.:** The oldest house in the village, built before 1800, has a post-and-beam frame with plank walls and hair plaster. Has original fireplaces in the kitchen, bedroom and dining room. Upstairs bedroom has a closet once used to smoke meat.



**31. 110 George St.:** The Fort Ann Post of the Glens Falls National Bank, built in 1973, is a replica of an actual fort that once stood on the site.



### Other Points of Interest

**A. Village cemetery:** On Route 149, 0.2 miles west of the traffic light, on left. Contains 2,200 marked graves dating back to the early 1800s. Raymond W. Harvey, the first soldier from Fort Ann killed in World War I is buried here, as well as several men killed in the Civil War. One lot holds seven members of the same company from that war.

**B. Powder House marker:** On Route 149, 0.3 miles west of the traffic light, on right. "Old Powder House used during French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars."

**C. Cornerstone Bible Church:** Non-denominational church located at 59 County Route 16. It was built in 1978 on land donated by Harold Haviland.



### Early Businesses in the Village

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Tanneries                                     | Knitting Mills      |
| Patisserie & Tea Room                         | Blacksmith Shop     |
| Lime Quarry                                   | Photography Shop    |
| Glue Factory                                  | Markets             |
| Match Factory                                 | Boat Building Yards |
| Sash and Blind Factories                      | Cheese Factory      |
| Millinery Shop (complete with fortune teller) |                     |
| Ping Pong Paddle and Shuffleboard Cue Plant   |                     |
| Borden's Milk Processing Plant                |                     |



Lyons' Market  
1916

William  
Dennie's  
blacksmith  
shop  
1916



### History of the Village

The Village of Fort Ann, incorporated in 1820, is located fifteen miles from the Vermont border, at the foot of the Adirondack Mountains. It lies along an Indian path between the Hudson River and Lake Champlain, on what was known as the "Warpeth of the Nation," and was the scene of many war parties, from early Indian raids to Burgoyne's expeditions during the Revolution. In 1777, Fort Ann was also the site of a very important Revolutionary War battle, the Battle of Fort Anne, that saw the nation's new "Stars & Stripes" flown for the first time in battle. American rebels fought in the Battle of Fort Anne and then retreated ahead of Burgoyne's invading army, felling trees to block the road to the south. Their sabotage delayed the British advance long enough for Colonial forces to mount a successful defense at Saratoga and turn the tide of war in America's favor.

The Battle of Fort Anne was the most important battle that ever took place in Washington County, and it was also, as attested to by officers on both sides, considering the number of men engaged, one of the most hotly contested conflicts of the Revolution.

The Battle Hill monument is located 0.8 miles north of the traffic light on Route 4, on the left, set in a stone cliff face. The marker reads: "Battle Hill, at this pass was fought the Battle of Fort Anne, July 8, 1777. Here Burgoyne was first checked in his victorious march by a fierce all day battle with the Americans which delayed the British and made possible their defeat at Saratoga."



When the wars gave way to settlement, the nearly level terrain presented the most promising route for a canal connecting Lake Champlain to the Hudson River. The Champlain Canal opened in 1823, making Fort Ann an inland port. The canal also served as a route for fugitive slaves in the decades before the Civil War.

### What Happened to the “e?”

The village and town of Fort Ann were named for the famous Battle of Fort Anne fought here in 1777. The people who lived here in the early 1800s, when it was called Westfield, wanted the name Fort Anne to be remembered.

Some feel that the fort built during Queen Anne’s War (1702-1713) gave the village its name.

Some believe that the “e” was dropped due to the residents’ hatred for the British and their king.

Others think that, out of respect for Col. George Wray, who died two and a half years before, the name was spelled the same as that of his daughter Ann, who was his pride and joy.

Some believe that the “e” was dropped by mistake by the person who filled out the papers sent to the state for the name change from Westfield to Fort Anne.

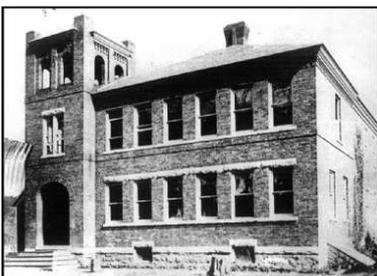
The only way to be sure is to read the minutes of the meeting at which the residents voted to change the name from Westfield to Fort Anne – if they are anywhere to be found.



George Street  
in the 1930s

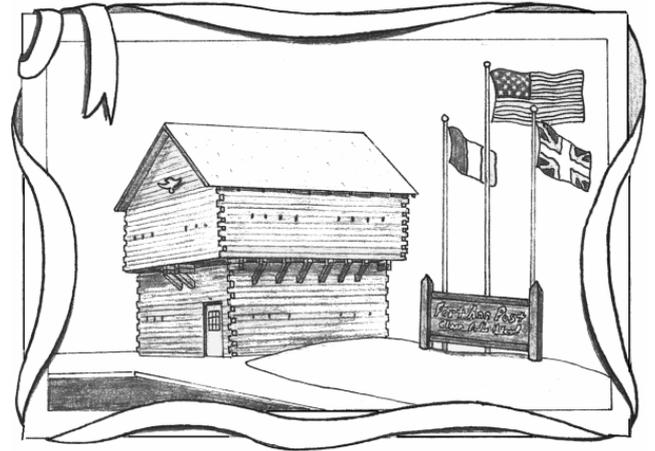


Train Station  
originally located  
near the old canal



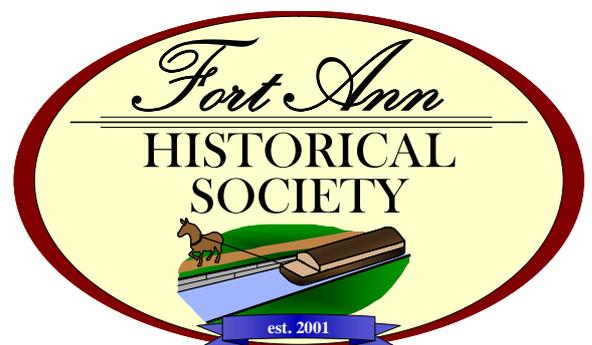
Fort Ann Union  
Free School  
on George Street  
in the early 1900s

# Historical Walking Tour of Fort Ann Village



Fort Ann Post  
Glens Falls National Bank

*Enjoy your walk!*



Map, blockhouse drawing and logo design by Patrick Barber

Information and photos from “Fort Ann: 300 Years of History,”  
by the Fort Ann Historical Society

Brochure design by the Fort Ann Historical Society - 2009

For more information about Fort Ann, visit [www.fortann.us](http://www.fortann.us).

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