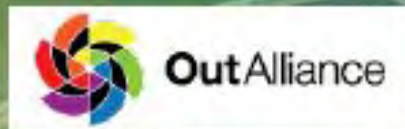


# First LGBTQ Historic Walking Tour

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

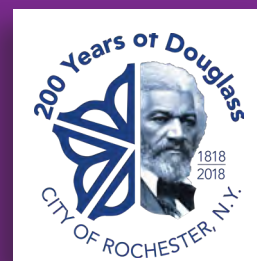


### LGBTQ LANDMARKS INITIATIVE

*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, WXXI and The Little.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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

### TOUR PATH

On this walking tour, you'll discover the story of the LGBTQ Resistance movement that took place in the 100 - Acre Tract, Rochester's oldest "neighborhood", in the 1970's.

The tour begins at Rochester's City Hall, 30 Church St. Our second stop is Genesee Crossroads Park (Federal Bldg), 100 State St., and our third and final tour stop is St. Lukes/St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church, 17 S Fitzhugh St.

In 1803, Ebenezer Allan turned over the title of 100 acres alongside the west bank of the Genesee River to William Fitzhugh, Charles Carroll, and Colonel Nathaniel Rochester. In 1811, Colonel Rochester subdivided the parcel into building lots. In 1817 when Rochesterville was incorporated as a village, the former 100-Acre Tract became the center of government and commerce as well as a residential neighborhood.





## Rochester City Hall

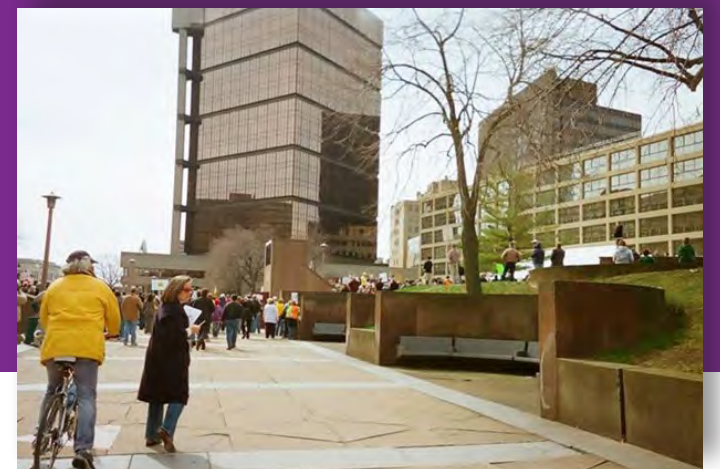
**“The City of Rochester is proud to continue the legacy of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass and to welcome all voices in charting our future.”**  
- Lovely Warren, Mayor of Rochester, NY

In 1977, the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley (GAGV) resisted the hate filled discrimination led by Councilperson Charles A. Schiano against the GAGV after receiving a CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act) Grant for \$35,406 (3.5% of the total allocation). The Grant’s mission was “to ease the burden of discrimination faced by gay women and men in the community”. Schiano called a press conference to express his “outrage” at the recommendation to fund GAGV. His “biggest concern”? - That the grant would “promote homosexuality.” The Rochester Community Chest, forerunner of the United Way of Rochester, refused to administer the grant fearing people would not contribute to the Community Chest. **The “RESISTANCE” began.** Bill Johnson, CEO of the Urban League, recognized this discrimination. The Urban League became the evaluator and administrator of CETA funds. At the November 22nd Rochester City Council meeting, the eight to one affirmative vote came after a heated public debate by 19 opponents and 17 supporters. **RESISTANCE succeeded, justice prevailed.** Architecturally, City Hall (old Federal Building), an example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, is one of the three 19th century buildings left in Rochester.



## Genesee Crossroads Park ( Fed. Bldg.)

**“You need to know your history to be adequately prepared for the future!”**  
- Carol Ebersole-Weiss,  
HRC National Board of Governors & Western NY Coordinator



**RESISTANCE** in Rochester, NY on Saturday, September 23, 1978 was 800 strong at the Rally For Rights, Rochester’s answer to Anita Bryant’s **“Save Our Children Rally”**. Bryant’s crusade to stop the 1977 Dade County Florida ordinance forbidding discrimination due to sexual orientation was based on her belief that homosexuals, not being able to reproduce on their own, were trying to push their “lifestyle” to recruit children for their ranks. Kate Millet, feminist and rally speaker, said the Rally marked the “beginning of a community through enlarging our understanding of oppression”. **This RESISTANCE Movement’s goals:** reach out to the non-gay community, establish a firm base of understanding and mutual agreement, and establish more communication between the diverse members of the gay community. Karen DeCrow, former NOW president, said by challenging the definitions of what it means to be male or female, lesbians and gay men had “become the witches of the ‘70’s, and are punished more than any other group”. **The RESISTANCE battle cry became: “Save our children ...for the Revolution!”** Genesee Crossroads Park, known as **Charles Carroll Park**, is located approximately where the notorious old Front Street was located.



## St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church “Two Saints”

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



Known best for its historical significance of being the oldest surviving public building in Rochester, St. Luke’s was home to the first visible **RESISTANCE to LGBTQ oppression by the Rochester Episcopal and Catholic faith communities.** Integrity, founded in 1974 by Louie Crew in rural Georgia, and Dignity, founded 1969 in San Diego, California as a “rap group” for gay and lesbian Catholics, became Dignity- Integrity/Rochester (D-I/R). Chartered in 1975, it was the first combined chapter of the two national organizations. D-I/R has been a local grass roots lay organization in pursuit of full inclusion of LGBTQ persons and for equal access to all rites and positions within the Episcopal and Catholic Churches. Beginning at St. Patrick’s Church on Plymouth Avenue, D-I/R moved to St. Luke’s and celebrated their First Anniversary on September 26, 1976. In October, 1986, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued the **LETTER ON THE PASTORAL CARE OF HOMOSEXUAL PERSONS** which precipitated other oppressive acts and led to the removal of local Catholic priests from presiding at liturgy. **Peaceful prayerful RESISTANCE is the hallmark of D-I/R.**

