

Celebrating Our History and Community!



Black Rock Heritage Trail



History Black Rock Heritage Trail War of 1812 Exhibit

Developed as a traveling exhibit and teaching tool this exhibit explains the major events of the War of 1812. There are four panels and a video associated with this exhibit. A schedule of sites is available by checking the Black Rock Historical Society website at www.blackrockhistoricalsociety.com.



Black Rock and the Five Important Events During the War of 1812

Within the City of Buffalo, Grant-Amherst, Black Rock, Grant-Ferry, Forest, and Buffalo State neighborhoods were prevalent in events occurring 200 years ago during the War of 1812.

Situated along the Niagara River at the foot of what is School Street today was Black Rock Village, centered at where current Niagara and West Ferry Streets meet. Prior to the breakout of the War of 1812, then-Congressman Peter B. Porter's house anchored the village. The area known as the neighborhood of Black Rock today just north of Scajaquada Creek was sparsely occupied and was the site of several landings and military movements during the War. Commodore Perry used this area to assemble ships for battle.

Five significant events occurred along the Scajaquada Creek and helped the United States effort to win the war.

Capture of the Ships Detroit and Caledonia
October 8, 1812

Bisshopp's Raid
July 10, 1813

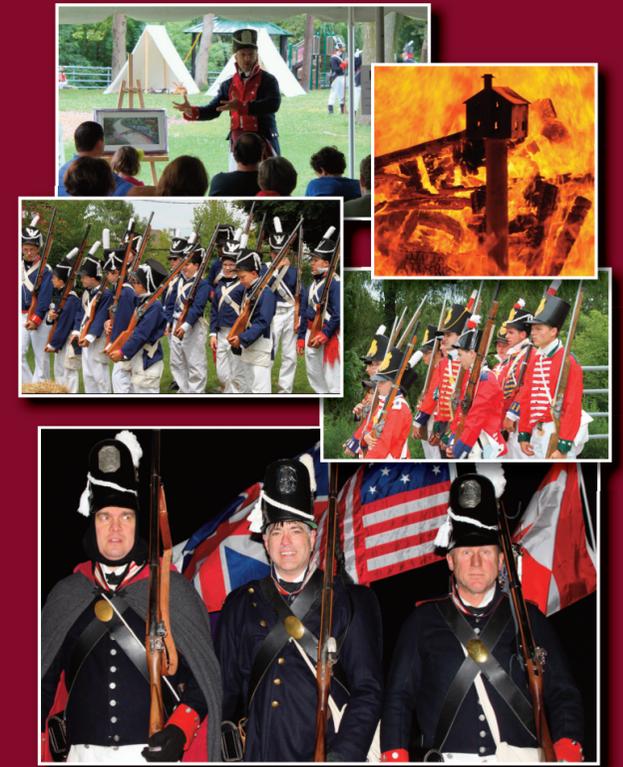
Fitting the Ships of War – Battle of Lake Erie
September 1813

Burning of Black Rock
December 29, 1813

Battle of Scajaquada Creek Bridge
August 2, 1814

Black Rock Historical Society War of 1812 Events

The Black Rock Historical Society celebrates the proud history of our community. Check our website often so you do not miss the opportunity to join us and celebrate our history!



Sponsored by the Greenway Commission
for the enjoyment of Buffalo's citizens and visitors.

Special thanks to:

- Mayor Byron W. Brown
- North District Council Member Joseph Golombek, Jr.
- Buffalo Arts Commission
- Black Rock-Riverside Good Neighbors Planning Alliance Historic Preservation Committee
- Black Rock Historical Society
- Artists and Community Members
- Authors of cited works
- 1st Regiment US Riflemen
- Forsyth's Rifles Inc. re-enactors
- US Army Corps of Engineers – Buffalo District
- ... all for their contributions to this work!



Community Market Square Historic District



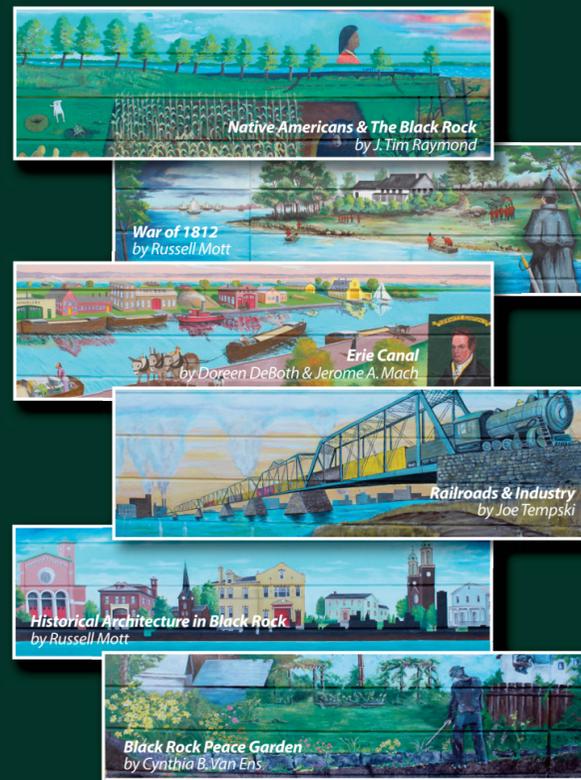
Newly designated a National Historic District known as Market Square, this exhibit is a celebration of this significant neighborhood. The community rallied around this exhibit and contributed many of the historic photos and stories.

For a list of showing locations and dates, please visit: www.blackrockhistoricalsociety.com.



Mural A Community Celebrates its History

The mural located on Tonawanda Street at Amherst Street identifies the significant eras in the History of Black Rock and contains a timeline of major events with panels celebrating the following:



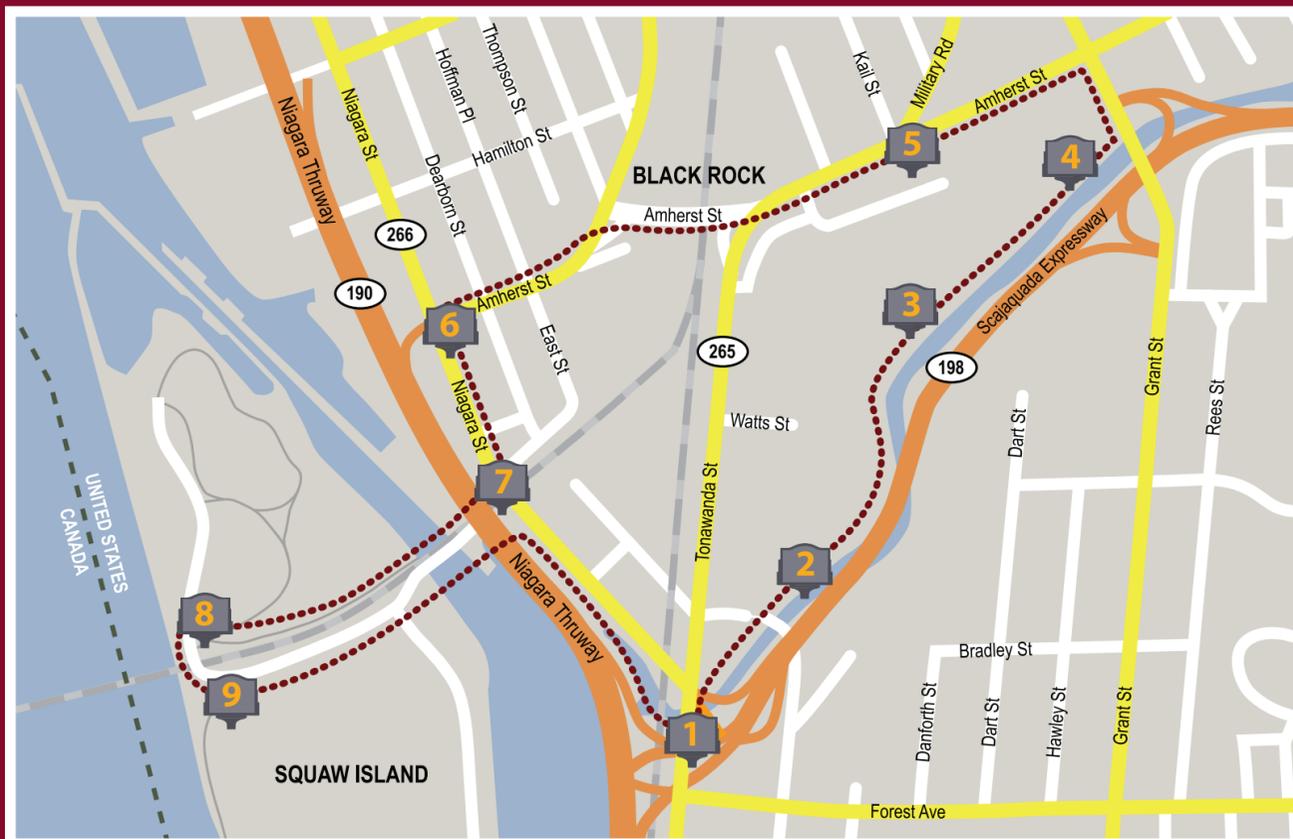
Black Rock Historical Society Community Events



War of 1812



War of 1812 – Black Rock Heritage Trail



The War of 1812 Black Rock Heritage Trail celebrates the sites and historic events that occurred during the War of 1812 in the area of Black Rock in the City of Buffalo. **There are 9 markers accessible by bike or walking tour.** The trail begins at Niagara and Tonawanda Streets near Scajaquada Creek and proceeds along the Scajaquada bike trail to Grant Street, winding back to Niagara Street continuing to Squaw Island along the River Walk.

1. Information

This is a convenient location to start this trail. There is limited off street parking where one can take off on their bike and begin this trail. This informational sign provides the location of all the sites along the trail and some history of the events which occurred in this area during the War of 1812.

2. Commodore Perry Naval Yard

For over 300 years, Scajaquada Creek and Black Rock have been the site of shipbuilding and water transportation. First, in 1679, was the Griffon, the first trading ship above Niagara Falls on the Great Lakes. Perhaps the most dramatic ships were those outfitted with guns for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry turning merchant ships into warships.

3. Battle of Scajaquada Creek Bridge

August 1814, Major Ludowick Morgan, commanding 240 riflemen, defended the bridge at what is now known as Scajaquada Creek, then called Conjockey Creek. The British tried to cross. Despite the Americans being vastly outnumbered the Americans repelled the British. The Battle of Scajaquada Creek Bridge was the most successful fight which an American force ever waged within the corporate limits of our present city, and the last hostile movement of the British toward Buffalo.

4. Scajaquada Creek

A natural harbor, this body of water has served as a site of shipbuilding as early as 1679. It served as a shipbuilding site and strategic military location during the War of 1812. It's banks continue to serve as a transportation hub and area of significance today.

5. Military Road

Cleared through forests and swamps by soldiers in 1802, the road connected Fort Niagara to Fort Thompkins. The "military" road was used during the War of 1812, by General McClure in the winter of 1813, moving to Buffalo from Fort Niagara as the British retaliated for burning Newark (Niagara on the Lake).

6. Burning of Buffalo and Black Rock

Early in the morning of December 30, 1813, over 1,000 British troops landed near the foot of present-day Amherst Street and proceeded to burn Black Rock, destroying all homes and buildings. They then marched to Buffalo and burned everything except the jail and the house of Margaret St. John.

7. Squaw Island

Named Squaw Island by the men of LaSalle's expedition in 1679, this island was called Divided Island, "De-dyo-we-no-guh-doh," by the Senecas referring to a division by the marshy creek. Presented as a gift by the Seneca Nation to Captain Parish, agent and interpreter, it is site of troop landings, and departures. It is also the site of the beaching, burning, and sinking of the British warship HMS Detroit in the War of 1812.

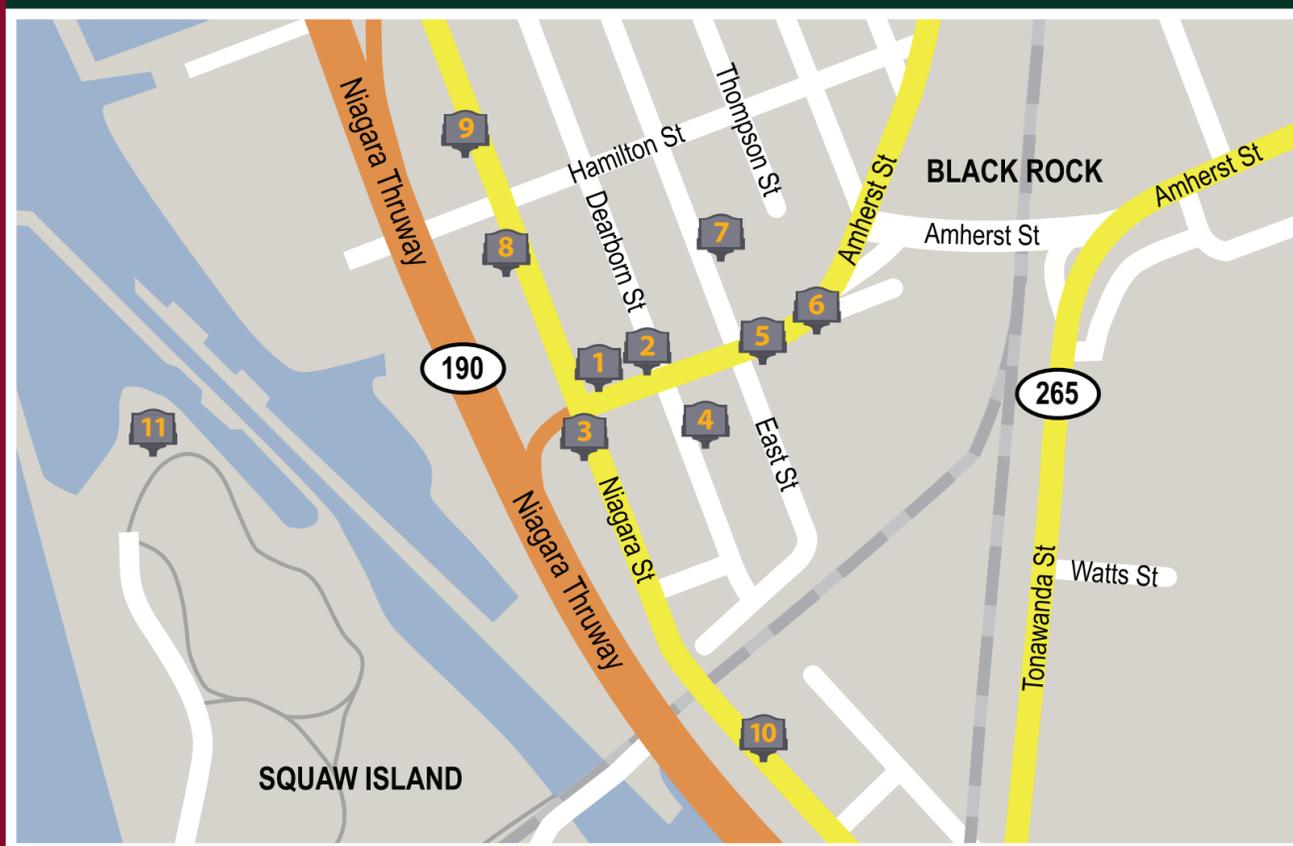
8. Battery Placements

Batteries are fortifications used to protect the men and cannons as they take up positions of battle. The Niagara River had a number of these located on both sides of the river during the War of 1812. This sign provides a history and location of both Americana and British fortifications along this section of the Niagara River.

9. Ships of the Niagara

President James Madison recognizing the need for a fleet on the Great Lakes gave the orders to build a fleet in September 1812. Under the direction of Commodore Perry, 5 vessels were built or fitted for battle at the Scajaquada Creek ship yard. Most served in the decisive battle of Lake Erie and all were vital to the war effort. Included are the USS Caledonia, USS Trippe, USS Somers, USS Ohio, and USS Amelia.

Market Square – Black Rock Heritage Trail



Market Square

Market Square – Black Rock Heritage Trail celebrates the sites and historic events of the period 1830–1914 as Lower Black Rock evolved from a small independent village to a small independent neighborhood in the City of Buffalo. This is an easy walking tour with on-street parking.

1. Market Square Information

This sign provides detailed information about the Market Square District and the accompanying walking tour.

2. Village of Black Rock

Lower Amherst Street began to develop in 1830 and by the turn of the twentieth century had become the civic center of Lower Black Rock. The area had long been a natural landing and crossing place and was noticed as the "resting place of the portage boats" on the earliest maps.

3. Market Square – 1830

Built on land donated by General Peter B. Porter to the people of Black Rock, Market Square is the oldest extant public market site in Buffalo. The narrow medians flanking both sides of Amherst Street were designed to accommodate vendors' stalls.

4. Stephen W. Howell House and Store – 1830

This limestone Federal style house was built by Stephen W. Howell (1808–1885). Howell was a prominent resident of Black Rock and built the Frontier Mills in 1831. His adjacent store has since been demolished.

5. Jacob Smith House and Tavern Ca. 1830-1835

This timber-frame Federal style house was constructed to accommodate prospective settlers in the village of Lower Black Rock. Originally built by Augustus Porter (1769-1849) and other investors, it was sold to Jacob Smith (1818-1871) in the 1840s. Now privately owned, it was restored in 1989.

6. St. John's Church – 1891

Black Rock's German Evangelicals first organized as a congregation in 1847 and erected a church on this site in 1852. It was replaced in 1891 by the present structure.

7. St. Francis Xavier Church – 1913

Black Rock's first Roman Catholic Church was built on this site in 1853 by German immigrants. It was replaced by the present church and rectory in 1913. The school was built in 1893. The parish closed in 2007 and was purchased by the Religious Arts Center in 2008.

8. Buffalo and Niagara Falls Railroad 1836-1869

Present day Niagara Street was the original route of the first steam railroad in Western New York. Service from Black Rock to Niagara Falls began on August 26, 1836. The New York Central Railroad Company acquired the line in 1869.

9. Jubilee Springs

The Jubilee Springs began supplying water to the village of Black Rock in 1827. Wooden water mains fed pumps at various locations throughout the village. Today the spring provides water to a small pond in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

10. Porter Square – 1830

Built on land donated by General Peter B. Porter to the people of Black Rock, Porter Square was the village's public gathering place. An early schoolhouse once flanked the square. Later, the Black Rock Railroad Station stood here.

11. Black Rock Lock – 1914

In operation for 100 years, the Black Rock Lock opened in 1914 and was constructed to provide a safe navigation route for commercial traffic and to avoid the shallow reefs & rapids of the upper Niagara River.