

## 909-903 Oswego

These bungalows were constructed in 1929-1930 on former farmland. They likely were built by the same developer, A. C. Lamb, and represent an affordable and popular style of the time. Descendants of the Lamb family still live in the area and own the storage facility on Vine Street.

## 815 Oswego

This beautiful bungalow-style home was built in 1913 for Irving R. Gilson (1888-1970) and his wife Leora (1892-1983). A heating contractor, Gilson was a member of the Liverpool Board of Education who promoted the first track and field sports in the Liverpool school system. Gilson also invented a machine gun testing device during World War II, which was used by the Brown Lipe Chapin Corporation and at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland.

## 807 Oswego

This Italianate style frame house dates from 1857, when the front part was constructed and joined to an earlier, more modest building in the back. It was constructed for Willard Gleason (1823-1883), brother of "Liverpool's millionaire" Lucius Gleason. From 1999 to 2018, the house was a senior living facility administered by the Liverpool Housing Authority.

## 801 Oswego

This Arts and Crafts "prairie" style house dates to about 1915 and originally belonged to William Siler, superintendent of the press room at the Syracuse Journal newspaper. The Syracuse Journal, originally published in 1844, merged with the Syracuse Herald in 1925 under the controlling interest of William Randolph Hearst. The Journal had the reputation of one of the strongest Republican publications in New York state.

## 725 Oswego

This brick house, which has housed a series of medical and dental offices over the years, probably dates to the mid-1920s. Two similar homes are located on Hickory and Fourth streets in the village. The style resembles certain Sears kit houses; the Sears Company sold about 70,000 kit homes between 1908 and 1940. A 1927 directory lists the owner as Leonard Sharrer (circa 1870-1950), a carpenter who constructed many village houses. Previously, Sharrer constructed and lived at 514 Oswego St., also a Sears kit house.



## 715 Oswego

This Italianate style house has undergone many changes in the last few decades. It appears on an 1874 map, and likely the same structure is shown on an 1860 map; the style dates to 1860-1880. It is a substantial structure for its time, but little information is available.

## 709 Oswego

Jacob Bardes (1846-1937) lived here in the early 1900s and possibly before. Bardes was a German-born basket maker who had lived in Liverpool since 1852. His family was part of the German immigration wave in the early 1850s that brought basket making to Liverpool. The house is Greek revival style, dating to before 1860.

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# Oswego Street Walking Tour

Oswego Street has been a busy thoroughfare since Liverpool village's beginnings in the late 1700s and early 1800s. It was an overland route that connected Liverpool's salt industry to the important port of Oswego on Lake Ontario, and until the Oswego Canal opened in the spring of 1829, it was the lifeline to the port. In 1846, the first plank road in the United States opened between Syracuse and Central Square and was so successful for its investors that others opened in quick succession, including one from Salina to Clay via First and Tulip Streets in 1849, and Oswego Street/Oswego Road in about the same year. Improved transportation and tolls made plank roads profitable, but maintenance was costly. Better roads in general and the railroad made plank roads obsolete. But Oswego Street, which becomes Route 57, remains as a major artery in the area.

The houses on this tour represent both the 19th and 20th centuries, reflecting layers of history like the rest of the village.

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## Liverpool Village Historic Walking Tour: Oswego Street

### 706 Oswego

This circa 1898 Queen-Anne style house was the home of Frank Beuscher and his family in 1915. Frank was a blacksmith whose business was on the corner of First and Vine, today's Village Mall corner. The house may have been renovated from a much earlier structure that appears on 1860 and 1874 village maps.

### 724 Oswego

Another Queen Anne Revival style house, this was Dr. Wardell Engle's home. It was constructed in the late 1890s or early 1900s on the site of an earlier, much older house. Engle was a dentist who kept a laboratory and surgical equipment in the home, which also had extensive gardens on the neighboring lot. A 1915 map shows an outbuilding labeled "auto" in back of the house, a rarity at the time. A massive fire gutted the house and destroyed Engle's laboratory in 1926. The house was repaired, but Engle ironically died as the result of an auto accident in 1930.



### 800 Oswego

In 1856, this house was the residence of Daniel Sherman (1790-1883), a War of 1812 veteran, his daughters Susan and Ellen, and his son-in-law Isaac Gleason (1810-1886). Susan and her husband Isaac were prominent musicians at the Presbyterian Church, and Daniel was a carpenter who helped construct 807 Oswego St., across the street. He also ran a sort of taxi service, taking people to and from the train station in Syracuse, farmed a bit, and worked around the house, where his family took in boarders. His daughter Ellen married wealthy Willard Gleason, Isaac's cousin, and they moved into the new house at 807 that her father had worked on.

### 808 Oswego

This "ink bottle" style home is one of the oldest still standing in the village, dating to about 1830. It was the home of John Boyden (1814-1890), a wagon maker whose shop was at First and Tulip streets. Later, it was the home of Harry Bahn, a basket maker who sold his products from the yard of his home.



### 812 Oswego

This bungalow-style home is an example of an early 1920s mini-building boom in the village undertaken by developer A. C. Lamb of Vine Street. Houses of this same style sprang up in vacant lots here and there in the village at about the same time. The style represented a "modern," affordable housing solution for young families. Because of the nature of the village, which simply evolved over time, this bungalow's neighbor at 808 is about 100 years older, and the neighboring house at 814 is at least 50 years older.

### 814 Oswego

A structure on this lot appears on an 1874 map of the village. By 1915 it was the family home of John Hurst and Anna Gerhardt Hurst, who lived over a willow shop in back of the house until they could occupy the house. The extended Hurst family members were willow weavers who worked in the shop until 1929. The shop was donated to the village in 1991 and moved, along with its memories, to the lawn of the Gleason house at 314 Second St. The Hurst willow shop, now the Liverpool Willow Museum, was dedicated at its new location on July 4, 1994.

### 816 Oswego

This lot shows a structure on an 1860 village map. In the early 1900s it was the home of carpenter Merton Graves. The structure in the rear may have served as a willow shop, but is not documented as such.

### 916 Oswego

Another, much renovated mid-19th century home owned by a Mrs. Ward in 1860 and Phillip Furlong in 1874. Like many of his fellow villagers, Furlong was an Irish immigrant who worked in the salt yards. He died in 1891 at the age of 76, and is buried with his family in Liverpool Cemetery.

### 1012 Oswego

This house is a Sears "kit" house, the Conway model advertised in a 1920s Sears catalog for \$1,614 with monthly payments of \$30. It is one of several different Sears models in the village. The materials, complete with lumber, lath, doors and windows, moldings, flooring, hardware and paint, were typically shipped by rail and the house constructed on site. This one dates to 1924.

**\*Cross at Seventh Street, walk to top of hill across from Fire Department\***

### 1121 Oswego

This Italianate style house dates to before 1860, when John Myers owned it. By 1874 John had passed away, and his wife owned this block and the adjacent block at the top of Balsam and Hickory Street hills. John Myers' father, Peter, was an early Liverpool settler who repaired salt boiling kettles in his First Street blacksmith shop in the 1830s and 40s. The house was later owned by farmer John Batzer, a German immigrant and farmer.



### 1013 Oswego

This house appears on an 1860 map of the village but the style indicates it is even older, perhaps dating to the 1830s. In the later part of the 1800s, it was the home of Louis Gettman (1819-1892), who also owned several blocks bordering Hickory Street. Born in Germany, Gettman grew willow for the Liverpool basket industry and was a basket weaver himself.