

Child's Basin:

Carried by the grand Erie Canal, the Great Revival of the 1830s swept across western New York, intensifying the Abolitionist, Temperance and Women's Rights movements. Rochester became the center of ideas and reform as Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony established their homes here. Within these few blocks of Main Street, the Four Corners at Exchange Street and the busiest local Erie Canal landing at Child's Basin, reformers risked their lives, their reputations and their economic welfare. Hundreds of fugitive slaves were hidden or conducted to freedom in Canada from here. Anti-slavery, Temperance and Women's Rights marches once filled these streets.

Center of Activism

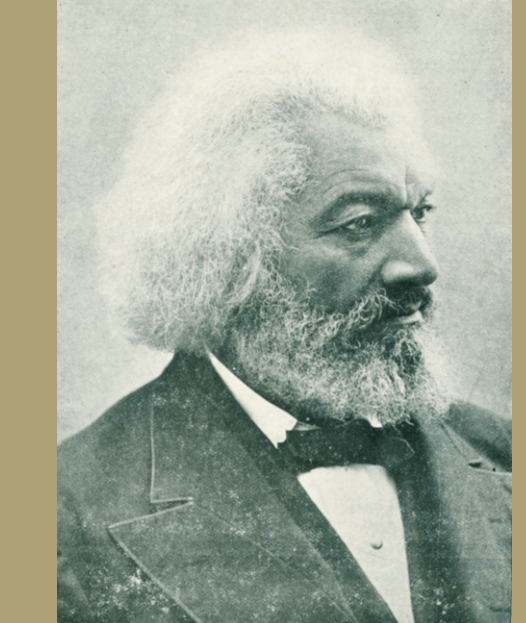
RIGHT IS OF NO SEX-TRUTH IS OF NO COLOR-
GOD IS THE FATHER OF US ALL, AND ALL WE ARE BRETHREN
Masthead North Star Newspaper



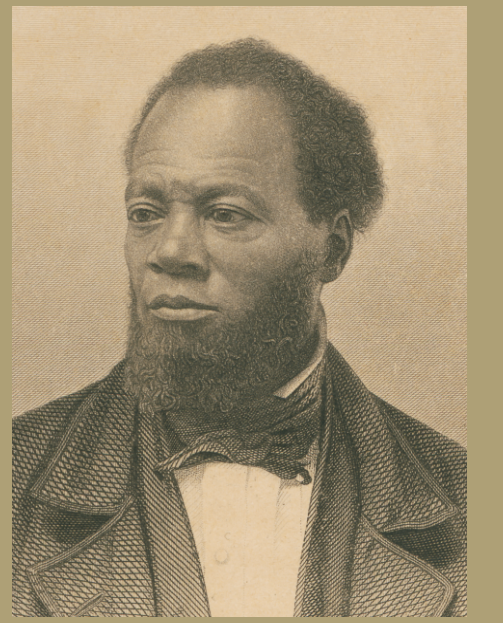
Above: Newspaper masthead, Rochester Images: From the Collection of the Rochester Public Library Local History Division



Susan B. Anthony
1820-1906



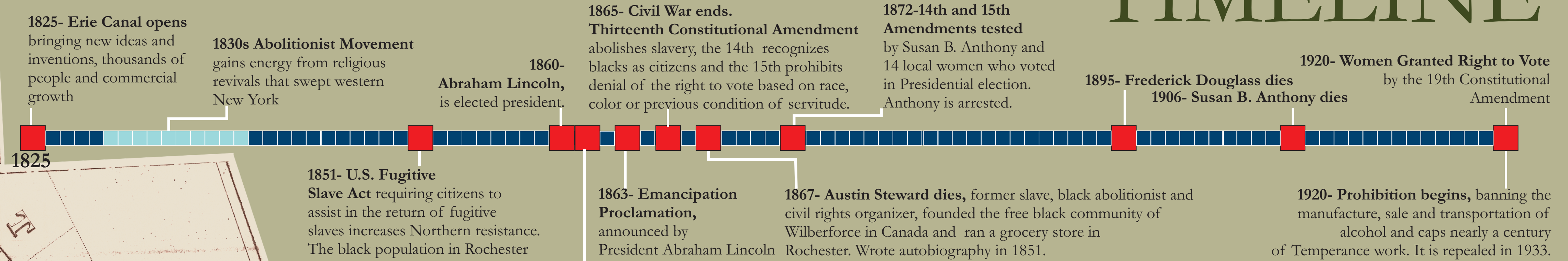
Frederick Douglass
1821-1895



Austin Steward
1821-1867

Above: Portraits Rochester Images: From the Collection of the Rochester Public Library Local History Division

TIMELINE



1825- Erie Canal opens bringing new ideas and inventions, thousands of people and commercial growth

1830s Abolitionist Movement gains energy from religious revivals that swept western New York

1860- Abraham Lincoln, is elected president

1865- Civil War ends. Thirteenth Constitutional Amendment abolishes slavery, the 14th recognizes blacks as citizens and the 15th prohibits denial of the right to vote based on race, color or previous condition of servitude.

1872-14th and 15th Amendments tested by Susan B. Anthony and 14 local women who voted in Presidential election. Anthony is arrested.

1895- Frederick Douglass dies

1906- Susan B. Anthony dies

1920- Women Granted Right to Vote by the 19th Constitutional Amendment

1851- U.S. Fugitive Slave Act requiring citizens to assist in the return of fugitive slaves increases Northern resistance. The black population in Rochester is reduced by half as resident fugitives seek liberty in Canada. Dr. John Jenkins, the city's only black doctor, moves to Canada.

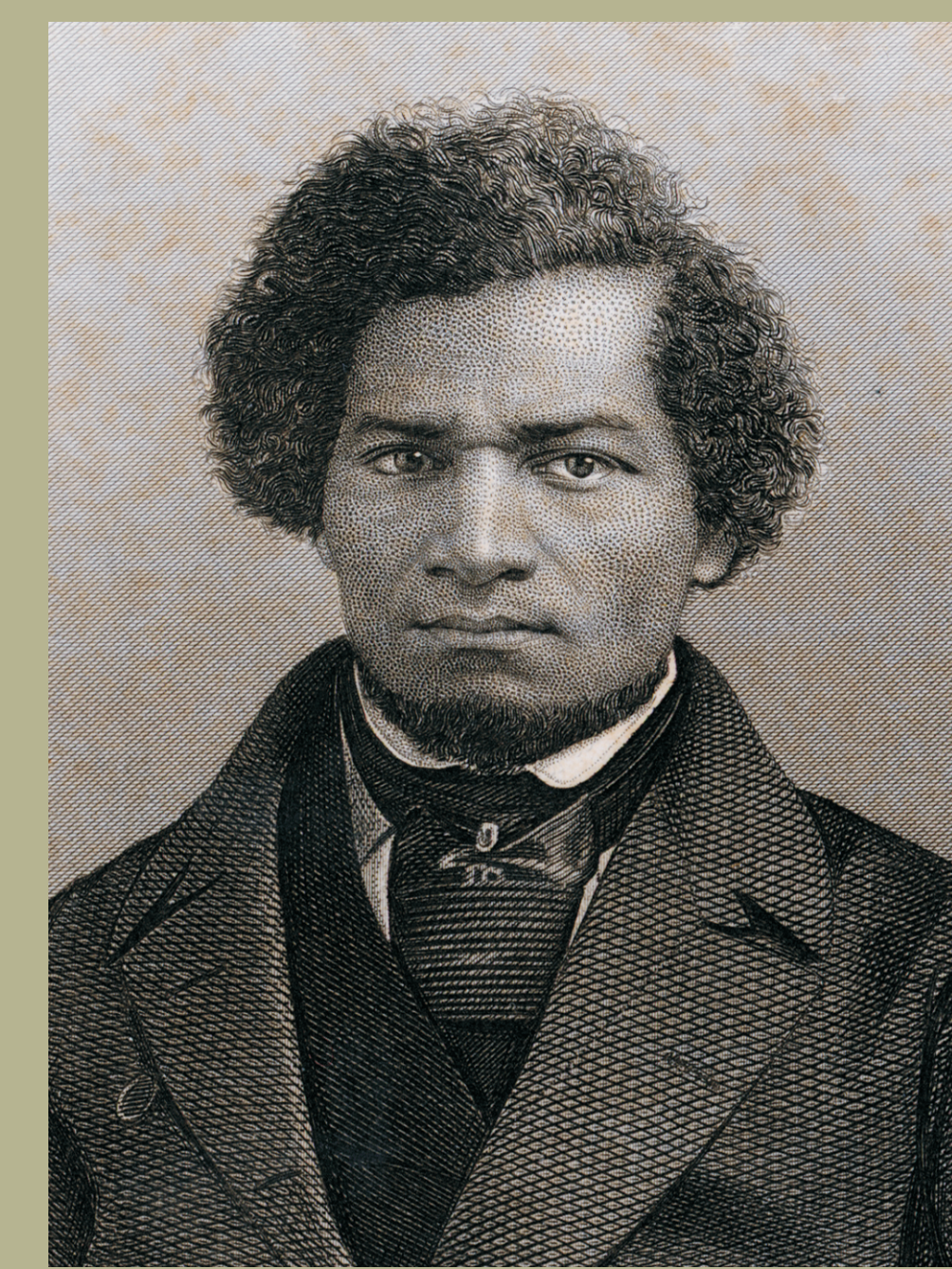
1863- Emancipation Proclamation, announced by President Abraham Lincoln freeing slaves in Confederate states and allowing for the enlistment of black soldiers. Frederick Douglass suspends publication of his anti-slavery newspaper and raises black military unit, Massachusetts 54th, enlisting his sons.

1867- Austin Steward dies, former slave, black abolitionist and civil rights organizer, founded the free black community of Wilberforce in Canada and ran a grocery store in Rochester. Wrote autobiography in 1851.

1920- Prohibition begins, banning the manufacture, sale and transportation of alcohol and caps nearly a century of Temperance work. It is repealed in 1933.

1861 January- Anti-Slavery Convention held by Susan B. Anthony and others at Corinthian Hall causes a riot

1861 April 12- Civil War begins following attack on Ft. Sumter, South Carolina



Above: Frederick Douglass, publisher of "The North Star." Rochester Images: From the Collection of the Rochester Public Library Local History Division



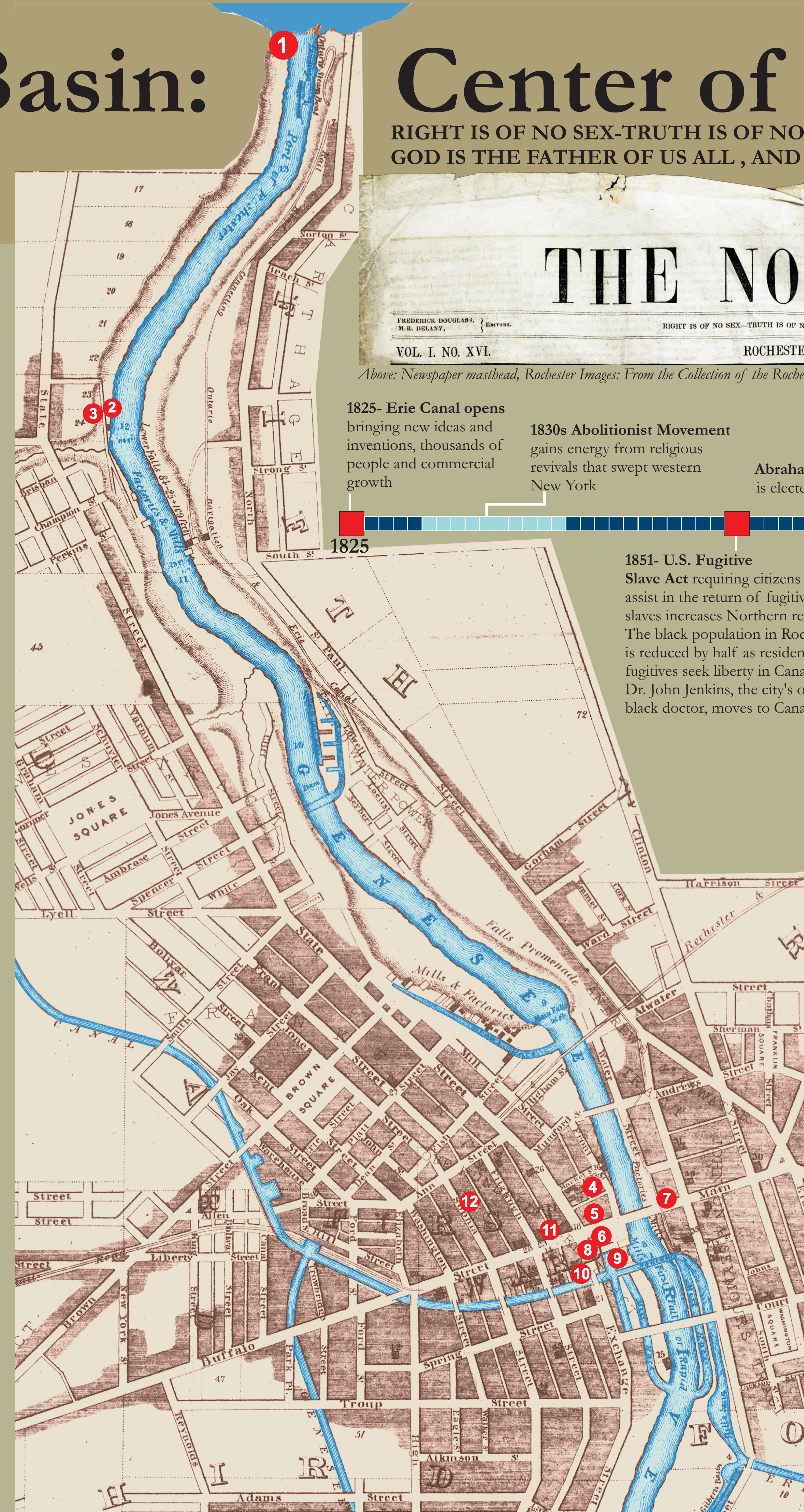
Above: Reynolds Arcade circa 1903 From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center

Reynolds Arcade
Built in 1828, this indoor mall was the center of business and communication, housing the Post Office, Western Union Telegraph, Dewey Book Store, Reynolds Athenaeum Library, barber shops and small shops, some black-owned. The Ladies Anti-Slavery Sewing Society held bazaars here to raise money. William Falls, an editor of *The Democrat*, recalled that he could quickly collect donations at the Arcade for canal, lake or stage tickets for fugitive slaves over his lunch time.

Frederick Douglass' newspaper was published in the Talman Building for many years. In January of 1861, a three-day anti-slavery convention in Corinthian Hall behind Reynolds Arcade, erupted in riot as anti-abolitionists, fearing civil war, protested the speakers and the "No compromise With Slaveholders" flag. Deputies escorted Susan B. Anthony and other speakers to safety after turning down the gas lights on the evening meeting. The freedom of speech debate that followed among City aldermen illustrated the tension across a nation on the brink of war.

Underground Railroad Sites

1. Port at Charlotte
2. Kelsey's Landing
3. Steam Boat Hotel, owned by Ralph Francis
4. Corinthian Hall
5. Reynolds Arcade after 1851, location for Black owned barber shops of Henry Breed, Benjamin Clegggett of Francis & Clegggett
6. Talman Building "North Star" Newspaper, Harriet Jacob's Anti-slavery Reading Room
7. Austin Steward's grocery
8. Isaac Post apothecary
9. Child's Basin
10. Dr. John Jenkins office
11. Ship's Chandler, owned by Edward C. Williams
12. Amy & Isaac Post House



Right: Map of Rochester Rochester Images: From the Collection of the Rochester Public Library Local History Division

