

Chautauqua Historic District

Bounded by Chautauqua Lake, North and Lowell Avenues, and New York Route 394,
Chautauqua

Beginning in 1874 as a Methodist Sunday school teachers' assembly, the Chautauqua Institution developed into one of America's most popular educational programs. Typically held in summer months in wooded retreats, Chautauquas across the country sponsored innovative secular programs long before colleges and universities accepted similar ideas. The movement began and grew in this wooded area on the shore of Lake Chautauqua, and the district retains a remarkable degree of integrity. Fanciful wooden cottages with ample porches that provided lodging for families participating in the program virtually define the term *Victorian* and typify the sort of housing erected at many other Chautauquas.