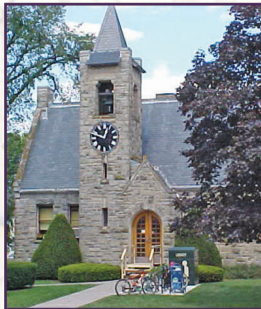


Historic Buildings

Methodist Episcopal Church and Dryden Village Green

2 North St. The church was built in 1874 and is located on the Dryden Village Green. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Also on the Green is the First Presbyterian Church of Dryden, 6 North St., that was founded in 1808.



Southworth Library

24 W. Main St. Designed by Ithaca architect William Henry Miller in Romanesque Revival style and completed in 1894. The library was a gift of Jennie McGraw Fiske and was named to honor her mother Rhoda Southworth McGraw and her grandfather John Southworth, a wealthy Dryden businessman.

Christ Chapel

380 Freeville Road. The chapel is located on the campus of the William George Agency, formerly called the George Junior Republic. The chapel was dedicated in 1902 and is a rare example of Shingle style design.

Eight Square School

Upper Hanshaw Road. The county's oldest existing school building operated from 1827 until 1941. It is now owned by The History Center of Tompkins County and is part of the center's Living History Program.



More local sites on the National Register of Historic Places: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_Tompkins_County,_New_York

Census

Dryden's population grew in the early 19th century and then declined until 1920. Its population did not exceed the 1840 level until the 1950s.

Town of Dryden	Tompkins County
1840: 5,446	32,296
1920: 3,186	35,285
1960: 7,353	66,097
2010: 14,435	101,624

Residents of Note

Jennie McGraw Fiske (1840-1881)

Daughter of John McGraw (1815-1877), a Dryden native and philanthropist of Cornell University. She inherited his fortune and made numerous gifts to Cornell, including most of the 21-bell chimes at McGraw Hall. She founded the Southworth Library, and her 1883 endowment continues to support its operation. She is interred in Cornell's Sage Chapel.



Jeremiah Wilbur Dwight (1819-1885)

A wealthy Dryden businessman who was a U.S. Representative (1877-1883) from New York. He declined re-nomination to Congress to return to his businesses in Tompkins County. He is buried in Green Hills Cemetery.

William "Daddy" George Jr. (1866-1885)

In summer of 1890, he brought city children to Freeville for life in fresh air. In 1895 he established The George Junior Republic in which participants were "citizens" with rights and responsibilities. Today, the William George Agency serves as a refuge for children in need of supervision. George is buried in Willow Glen Cemetery.

Dr. Samantha Nivison (1820-1915)

Received her medical degree from Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1855; established a water-cure facility in Dryden and urged Ezra Cornell to build Cascadilla Hall as an Ithaca spa and instructional center for women. When Cornell University was chartered in 1865 the building became a university residence. Nivison is buried in a family plot in Mecklenburg.

Cemeteries

- Ellis Hollow - 1800 Ellis Hollow Road, north of Peaceful Drive
- Etna - 581 Main Street, Etna. ■ Green Hills - 19 Highland Dr, Dryden.
- Pioneer - 41 E Main Street, Dryden. ■ Robertson - Baker Hill Road.
- Snyder Hill - 600 Snyder Hill Rd. ■ Willow Glen - Rt. 13, west of village.

More information on Tompkins County cemeteries: <http://www.nytomпки.org/tcem.htm>

For more local history:

- http://freevilleny.org/?page_id=2
- <http://drydennyhistory.org.ipage.com/>
- <http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/historian>
- <http://www.thehistorycenter.net/>

Text: Harry Weldon, Town of Dryden Historian. Design/production: Allison Kaiser. Cover photo: Adam Baker. Editing: Bruce Estes, Carol Kammen. The Tompkins County Bicentennial Commission sponsored city and town history brochures to commemorate the county's 200th anniversary in 2017.



Town of Dryden



Native American tools have been found in Dryden, but there is no record of any permanent Indian settlement in the town prior to the arrival of settlers in 1797. The land that would become the Town of Dryden was township #23 of the Military Tract created in 1790. Dryden was organized Feb. 22, 1803 when it was still located in Cayuga County. The town became an original part of Tompkins County in 1817 when the county was formed.



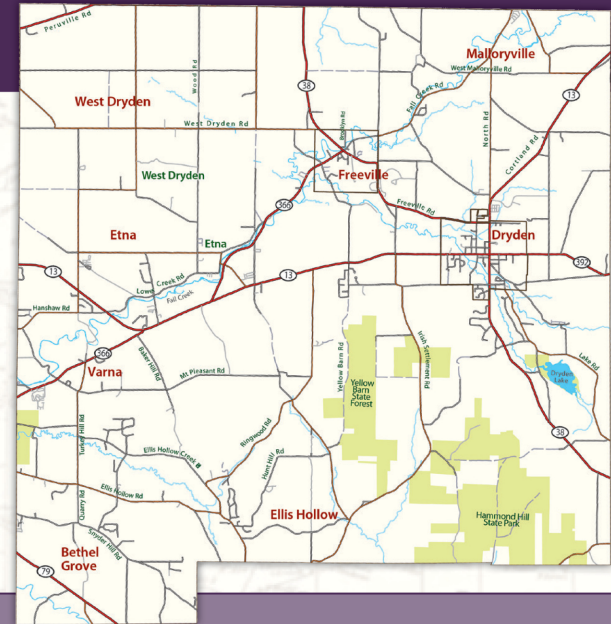
Dryden Points of Interest

■ **Dryden Lake Park and Jim Schug Trail**
The lake covers half of this 200-acre wildlife area managed by the state. The Jim Schug Trail, named for the late town supervisor, runs from the Village to the lake and then meets the Finger Lakes Trail.

■ **Central New York Spiritualist Association**
Freeville. In 1952 the Association built Dryden's smallest church, the Temple of Truth, at 2 Cook St. The 10-acre park was developed in 1895 as a campground where the church group meets each summer.



■ **Civil War Nurse Memorial**
In 2016, the Tompkins County Civil War Commission, Tompkins Cortland Community College and the Tompkins Cortland Community College Foundation dedicated this memorial on the TC3 campus to women who nursed during the Civil War. Four Tompkins County women answered the call to nurse during the war, which was considered "no place for a woman." This is the only national memorial devoted to all Civil War nurses.



Barn Swallow Photo by Cameron Rognan/Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

1803 Town of Dryden organized by the NYS Legislature.

1820 At least 20 school districts operated in town.



1827
The Eight Square School House built on Hanshaw Road in Dryden.

1857 Village of Dryden was incorporated, population about 400.



1895
George Junior Republic established near Freeville. Now known as William George Agency.



1957
Cornell University built a 220-acre Sapsucker Woods facility with classrooms, trails, and viewing stations. The lab expanded in 2003 and attracts more than 100,000 visitors each year.

2009 Southworth Library Association in Dryden sold a handwritten manuscript of an 1864 Abraham Lincoln speech for \$3.44 million. Proceeds from the sale helped build a new wing for the library. The document was given to the library in 1926.

1797

Amos Sweet and his family were the first settlers in what was to

become Dryden Township. The land was then part of Onondaga County. Pictured is a replica of Sweet's cabin built for the town's 1897 centennial, but the design is not based on any known image of the cabin.



1870
Southern Central Railroad in full operation in Dryden; merged with Leigh Valley Railroad in 1895.

1897
Dryden Centennial celebrated.

1887 Village of Freeville incorporated.



1902 Rural Free Delivery mail service established in Tompkins County.

1976 Leigh Valley Railroad ends operations.

1981
Dryden Town Historical Society established.

1997

Dryden Bicentennial celebrations include the unveiling of a fountain in the Village Green. It is a reproduction of an earlier fountain that was melted down in 1941.



2011 Town bans hydraulic fracturing setting off a two-year court battle of legal challenges that ended in the town's favor.