

Original Site Features of Major NYS Cities

1. Binghamton

1. Only city outside of the H-M-LP Corridor
2. Interior connection via Susquehanna River
3. Scarcity of level land limits growth and development
4. Narrow valley with large river;
5. limited crossing places; fords; 1808 bridge
6. Hill sides rise sharply from valley to 400-800 ft.
7. Towns at river junctions
8. Terminus of Chenango Canal 1837 lasted to 1870s
9. Air pollution problem

2. Buffalo

1. Niagara frontier; international boundary and crossing
2. Lake Erie plain is level and wide
3. West end of H-M-LP Corridor; junction of Lake Erie and Niagara River,
4. S end of Niagara Falls portage; escarpment had to be climbed at Lockport
5. Terminus of Erie Canal/Barge Canal
6. 1820- 2100 people; 1825 canal opens; 1831 10,000 people, 1880 155,000 people
7. Major US RR hub
8. Accessibility to markets
9. Man-made harbor at Buffalo Creek behind a natural sand bar
10. Transshipment point: 1830s grain- flour milling. Malt breweries
11. 1850s lumber from upper lakes
12. 1880s iron ore from MN + coal from PA = iron and steel industry
13. St Lawrence Seaway did not help it

3. Rochester

1. West end of Ontario LP Mfg region
2. Located at upstream-most waterfall on Genesee River; valley walls near downstream waterfalls are too steep
3. Early grist and saw milling site
4. Center of grain processing in early 1800s; Erie Canal 1825; RR 1839
5. Inland oriented; poor conditions at mouth of Genesee; halfway between Buffalo and Syracuse
6. Port of Rochester handles coal transfer to Canada; St Lawrence Seaway did not help
7. Erie Canal boats crossed over the river by a bridge.
8. Food processing center of NYS

4. Syracuse.

1. East end of Ontario LP Mfg region
2. Inland oriented city at natural crossroads; octopus shaped metro area
3. Four gateways: E to Mohawk R, S via Onondaga valley to Susquehanna river; W to Finger Lakes, B to St Lawrence R Valley and Lake Ontario
4. Area used by Iroquois
5. Salt springs esp. those by Onondaga lake, drew settlers and animals; Salina, NY

6. Salt trade was impetus to build a road network from Syracuse
7. Port of Oswego 35 mi to the north via the canalized Oswego River
8. Swelled with canal workers in 1825; RR 1838

5. Utica-Rome

1. Developed at western end of the Mohawk river valley after the Erie Canal opened
2. Both developed as industrial centers processing raw materials, including grain to make beer.
3. Utica was a place to cross the river; Rome was a portage site and was long a strategic location
4. Oriskany, the site of the famous battle is located between Utica and Rome.
5. Chenango canal to Binghamton existed from 1837-1870s
6. Black River canal from Rome to Watertown was not needed but built anyway
7. Took 14 yrs to dig 35 miles with 10 locks

6. Albany-Schenectady-Troy

1. Located at the eastern end of the Mohawk River Valley at elbow of the H-M-LP Corridor and at either end of the falls of the Mohawk; Albany is 10 mi south of the mouth of the Mohawk
2. Each city developed separately and form an urban triangle
3. It became the gateway to the west funneling people and goods into WNYS
4. Albany was created by the Dutch as Fort Orange, their chief fur trading post.
5. Albany became a transfer station and a break of bulk port (ship size to truck or RR or barge size); is at sea level; can accommodate ocean-going vessels; has N-S-E-W access
6. Champlain Canal was built to connect the Hudson R to Lake Champlain
7. Schenectady developed at the top of the falls of the Mohawk as a portage between the Hudson river and the Mohawk River via a wagon route from Albany
8. Sandy plain between Albany and Schenectady was a glacial lake was had limited agricultural potential
9. Troy developed on the east side of the Hudson about 200 ft above the river
10. Iron ore, limestone and sand in the area made for heavy industry; streams dropping to the Hudson provided waterpower

7. New York City

1. At southern end of H-M-LP Corridor
2. Located at the mouth of the Hudson in a deepwater protected bay with access to the interior; soft bay bottom excellent for anchorage
3. No winter ice; small tidal range; level land inland from shore; mild climate; ample precipitation
4. Easy access to ocean currents and trans-Atlantic shipping routes
5. Midway in the colonies between Massachusetts and Virginia
6. Limited freshwater supplies and sandy/clay soils were negative points
7. Fishing and clamming supplemented food supplies