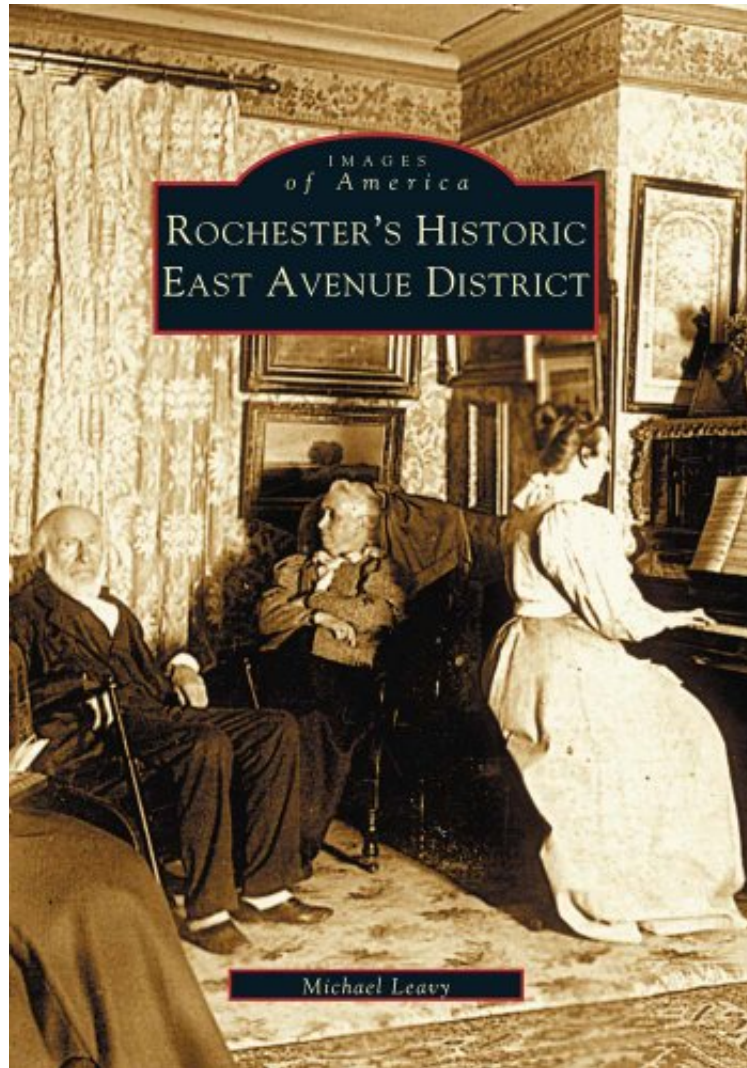


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Rochester's Historic East Avenue District (NY) (Images of America)

Michael Leavy

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American cities and towns have always prided themselves on their grand avenues. The social elite and industrial captains often transformed normal thoroughfares into magnificent promenades lined with mansions to showcase their wealth. Post-Civil War America experienced a burst of this activity, but Rochester, America's first true boomtown, had already set its sights on a grand avenue as early as 1840. The nouveau riche were anxious to establish a prestigious social colony befitting their stature. Using local and national architects, landscapers, and craftsmen, they transformed East Avenue from a crudely hacked pioneer lane into one of the grandest approaches to any city in the world. Although somewhat altered, it is still Rochester's most beautiful street and remains one of Monroe County's most spectacular features.

About the Author Author Michael Leavy chronicles the triumphs and tribulations of this historic area, using more than two hundred rare images. The author takes us, invitingly, into the homes of the landed gentry, there to learn of their successes, traditions, and philanthropic pursuits. The avenue is an architectural mecca, with styles evocative of French estates, Swiss chalets, English castles, and romantic cottages tucked into the Irish countryside. Rochester's Historic East Avenue District is the story of hardworking individuals who amassed great fortunes and then gratefully invested much of it into their community.