

Also Known As...

Alternate names for Mansion neighborhood streets

Over time, the names of many of the Mansion neighborhood streets have changed, reflecting cultural changes in Albany, as well as new development patterns in our neighborhood. In some cases, the street names changed several times within a very short period, which must have led to a great deal of confusion! For instance, Trinity Place's name was changed twice in just seven years. A number of street names were changed in the city on September 11, 1790 in what was partially an effort to rid local street names of references to British royalty in the wake of the Revolutionary War.

Eagle Street started out as Duke Street. It is unlikely that anyone actually lived on Duke Street in our neighborhood before the name was changed to Eagle Street in 1790. The southerly development of the city hadn't progressed much beyond Hudson Avenue at that point, but the street had been laid out on the early maps.



Elm Street was previously known as Westerlo Street, Pitt Street, and Otter Street. Westerlo was an early minister of the Dutch Reformed Church. The 1813 street map of Albany shows Westerlo extending up the hill following the path of Elm Street. Otter Street is the name given in 1790, when many city streets were renamed for animals.

Trinity Place was called Broad Street (which still exists south of Morton Avenue) until October 20, 1862. It was then called Davidson Street. On June 14, 1869, just seven years later, the name was changed to Trinity Place in honor of Trinity Church, which was constructed about that time.

Madison Avenue was formerly called Lydius Street. Sections of Madison Avenue were also known as Wolfe Street (named after a British general) and then Wolf Street (the 'e' was removed during the purge of British nobility names from Albany's streets in 1790), and then to Madison Avenue on May 20, 1867. Lydius is the name of an early Dutch Reformed minister in Albany. Today, there is an East Lydius Street that parallels the Thruway in the Pine Bush and Guilderland. That street appears on maps to be an extension of the original path of Madison Avenue/Lydius Street going west.

Myrtle Avenue originally went through a Ferry phase, becoming at various times West Ferry Street, Ferry Street, and Upper Ferry Street. The name was then changed to Mink Street, before settling finally on Myrtle Avenue. It is possible that it was also known as Monckton Street at some point.

Madison Place was originally just part of Lydius Street, and the homes on Madison Place originally were numbered in sequence with the Lydius Street properties further down the hill.

Park Avenue was originally called Monckton Street, after a French and Indian War general. The name changed to Park Avenue in 1790.



Grand Street was originally known as Hallenbake Street. The Hallenbakes were a local family. The name was changed to Grand Street prior to 1857.

Prior to 1869, Ash Grove Place was known as Westerlo Street, which still exists to the east in the Pastures neighborhood. Ash Grove Place was named in honor of Ash Grove Methodist Church, which was constructed on the site of the Schuyler Apartments in the 1860s.

Arch Street was originally known as Johnson Street, a westward extension of one of the streets in the Pastures that no longer exists. named after an early minister. Several other streets scattered around the city were variously known as Johnson Street, as well.