

1. Chemung Valley History Museum

415 East Water Street, Elmira, NY 14901
www.chemungvalleymuseum.org
(607) 734-4167

The museum is housed in what was the original location of the Chemung Canal Bank, of which Mark Twain was a patron. In fact, Twain used to boast that because of his many business dealings and investments, it was required of him to do his banking at least every other day. However, local banking officials' records show that it was not the bank that held Twain's interest, but rather Klaperoth's Saloon located directly behind it!

Today the museum's collections exhibit the vast history of the Chemung River Valley and the Southern Tier Region in addition to *Mark Twain's Elmira*, a permanent display offering a glimpse into the private life the author led while summering in Elmira.

2. Arnot Art Museum

235 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14901
www.arnotartmuseum.org
(607) 734-3697

A landmark in downtown Elmira, the world-class Arnot Art Museum is housed in the 1833 neo-classical mansion of John Arnot. His son, Matthias H. Arnot, added a Picture Gallery in the 1880's and bequeathed his home and collection in 1910 to become the Arnot Art Museum, which opened to the public three years later.

One piece of note is George Waters' 1881 painting created for his friend Mark Twain, *Skating on the Pond*. Originally hung at Quarry Farm, the Langdon family home where Twain did much of his writing, the painting is now part of the American Collection.

The Museum displays a permanent collection of seventeenth- to nineteenth-century European paintings, nineteenth- and twentieth-century American art and collections of Asian and Egyptian artifacts. Temporary exhibitions highlight various aspects of the collections and include works from museums around the world.

3. County Complex & Courthouse

203-205 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14901

These buildings house the county seat of government and the county Sheriff's Department. Some of these structures date back as far as 1836, when Chemung County was first incorporated.

4. City Hall

317 East Church Street, Elmira, NY 14901

Built more than 100 years ago, City Hall was designed by premier architects Pierce & Bickford, the same architects who helped design our State Capitol building in Albany. The two pediments on the east and south side of the building detail the history of Chemung County and the City of Elmira in historic symbolic relief.

5. Trinity Episcopal Church

304 North Main Street, Elmira, NY 14901

The tall spire of Trinity Episcopal Church has the distinction of being one of only 7 such spires remaining on Earth to be constructed entirely of brick. The gold cross high above the spire stands a full 5-feet tall and is layered in pure 14k gold.

6. First Baptist Church

121 West Church Street, Elmira, NY 14901

Listed on the National Underground Railroad register, this church had strong ties to the Abolitionist movement. The church is also known for its famous sexton, the former slave John Jones.

7. The Park Church

208 West Gray Street, Elmira, NY 14901
www.theparkchurch.com

The Reverend Thomas K. Beecher, minister of The Park Church for more than 40 years, was one of the nation's most outspoken abolitionists of his day. Beecher's equally outspoken sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe- author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*- was neighbor to Mark Twain in Hartford, CT. The eclectic architectural style of this Congregationalist church was designed to reflect the concept of welcoming all forms of Christian faith.

8. Langdon Mansion Site

West Gray Street, Elmira, NY 14901

Reverend Beecher's close friend, Jervis Langdon, lived across the street from Park Church in a grand mansion that occupied nearly the entire city block. It was in this mansion that Mark Twain married his great love, Olivia Langdon, Jervis' daughter. Today there stands a marker in Langdon Plaza commemorating the site where the mansion once stood.

9. Elmira College

1 Park Place, Elmira, NY 14901
www.elmira.edu
(607) 735-1800

Jervis Langdon and a number of his wealthy contemporaries pooled their money to found Elmira Female College in 1855. It was the first college in the U.S. to not only admit women, but to grant them a degree equal to those being offered to men. Langdon's own daughter, Olivia, graduated from the college and there is a statue in her honor on the campus in close proximity to one of her husband, Mark Twain. Both statues can be found just beyond "The Puddle"-or pond- to the south of Twain's Study on the famously purple and gold adorned campus.

10. The Mark Twain Study

Park Place just south of West Washington Avenue
www.elmira.edu
(607) 735-1941

Originally, the study sat atop East Hill overlooking Elmira at the home of Susan and Theodore Crane, Olivia's sister and brother-in-law. For more than twenty years, Twain summered in Elmira and it was here that he penned many of his most renowned books including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

11. Cowles Hall Mark Twain Exhibit

Park Place, just south of W. Washington Ave.
www.elmira.edu
(607) 734-1941

The Mark Twain Exhibit is located at Cowles Hall, the original building of the Elmira College campus, and houses photographs, furniture, clothing and memorabilia from the summers Twain and his family spent in Elmira. Open Tuesday-Saturday, May through Labor day and off season by appointment.

12. John W. Jones Museum

Southeast Corner of Davis St. and Woodlawn Avenue
www.johnwjonesmuseum.org

Although the museum is not yet open to the public, John Jones' family home is currently undergoing restoration as a historic site. Jones, a former slave, safely assisted nearly 800 slaves' flight to Canada in his position as an Underground Railroad Station Master. He was also responsible for the dignified burial of nearly 3000 Confederate soldiers in Woodlawn National Cemetery.

13. Woodlawn National Cemetery

1825 Davis Street, Elmira, NY 14901
www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/woodlawn.asp
(607) 732-5411

Of note are the rows of slightly pointed headstones which indicate a Confederate grave. These are some of the last and few Confederate graves north of the Mason-Dixon Line. The headstones with the rounded tops are that of Union soldiers. The monument was a gift from the Daughters of the Confederacy to the citizens of Elmira and now stands as the northernmost Confederate monument in the United States.

14. Woodlawn Cemetery

1200 Walnut Street, Elmira, NY 14905
www.friendsofwoodlawnelmira.org
(607) 732-0151

Famously known as the final resting place of Mark Twain, Woodlawn Cemetery is home to several residents of note, Ernie Davis, a local high school hero who went on to become the first African-American football player to win the Heisman Trophy before losing his life to Leukemia was laid to rest here, as was Hollywood motion picture pioneer and innovator Hal Roach, best remembered as the creator of the *Little Rascals*.

15. Civil War Prison Camp Site

Intersection of Hoffman Street and Winsor Avenue in Elmira, NY

Known to Confederate prisoners as "Helmira", the camp's notorious history is one of death and disease. Prisoners were subject to harsh weather conditions and suffered greatly from the complete lack of adequate supplies.

16. Near Westside Historic District

Near Westside Neighborhood Association Office is located at 353 Davis Street, Elmira, NY 14901
www.nwnainc.com
(607) 733-4924

The Near Westside Historic District is recognized nationally for having the largest concentration of Victorian homes in New York State. Near Westside's architecture features a catalog of Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Italian Villa, Eastlake, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Tudor Revival, and Colonial Revival styles. A self-guided walking tour map of the neighborhood is available online.

17. Chemung River

Friends of the Chemung River Watershed
111 North Main Street, Elmira, NY 14901
www.chemungriverfriends.org
(607) 846-2242

Although the Chemung River was the cause of great devastation in the Flood of 1972, the river is now a resource for both outdoor recreation and celebration. Every June the Chemung hosts the Elmira River Fest Paddle which includes live music, food, vendors, exhibits, displays and many fun activities.

18. Brand Park

422-458 Catherine St., Elmira, NY 14904

The Brand Park Bandstand hosts Sunday afternoon concerts throughout the summer. The blue shingled and stone Queen Anne mansion overlooking the park is actually the original Brand family home, built in 1894. Brand Park is also home to one of three remaining Binst pools in the nation. An architectural wonder, the pool dates back to 1926 and its design was based on an upturned straw brimmed hat. Its future is currently uncertain as city leaders consider the potential for restoration.

19. Dunn Field

546 Luce Street, Elmira, NY 14904
www.elmirapioneers.com

Baseball legends such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Stan Musial all played barnstorming games here on their way north to start their regular season. Back in 1863, Colonel Abner Doubleday, the supposed founder of the game of baseball, was stationed in Elmira and it was during his time here that he took it upon himself to train the Elmira Police Department and one of the fire departments in his unique game of "Bases and Bats". Then, in April 1864, he pitted the two teams against each other in what could rightfully be argued as one of the first public exhibitions of the game of baseball.

20. Maple Avenue Historic District

Maple Avenue, Elmira, NY 14904

Maple Avenue, so named for the massive maple trees which once lined the boulevard, is home to numerous grand old homes of the Victorian era, most of which were built from 1870 -1910. The Christmas House at 361 Maple Avenue was built in 1894 by Pierce & Bickford, the same renowned architects who designed Elmira's City Hall.

Painted 16 colors, The Christmas House exhibits the typical "Painted Lady" look of the high Victorian era. Although once a private residence, The Christmas House is now a specialty gift shop open from June through December. For more information on The Christmas House, visit www.christmas-house.com or call (607)734-9547.



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