

# Holland Land Office Museum

## Quick Facts

### **David Ellicott Evans** Resident - Agent of the Holland Land Company

David Evans was born on March 19, 1788 in Maryland, the son of Rachael Ellicott and Lewis Evans. He came to Batavia at the age of 15 to work with his uncle, Joseph Ellicott. He started as a clerk in the Land Office. He was soon promoted to cashier and then to accounting clerk.

He learned the intricate details of the land business from his uncle, as well as the political and economic problems of Western New York.

An active politician, Evans was elected to the state senate in 1818 and promoted the best interests of his uncle and the Holland Land Company. In 1826 he won a seat in Congress, but resigned to become Land Agent following the death of Jacob Otto.

As Resident - Agent from 1826 until 1837, his administration sold nearly one-half of all the companies lands in Western New York. The receipts of the company were greater than all the receipts under the agencies of Joseph Ellicott and Jacob Otto combined. Because of his large land holdings, his position in the company, and the large commissions he earned as Resident - Agent, Evans was among the wealthiest men in Western New York. From his five aunts he purchased and lived in the Joseph Ellicott mansion. The mansion was located in Batavia at about the intersection of West Main and Dellinger Ave. It was demolished in the late 1880's to make room for Dellinger Ave.

Mr. Evans enjoyed retirement in Batavia attending to his extensive land and business interests. Evans died suddenly on May 17, 1850 at the age of 63. He is buried in the Evans family plot in the historic Batavia Cemetery.



Holland Land Office Museum · 131 West Main Street · Batavia, NY 14020  
(585) 343 - 4727 · [www.hollandlandoffice.com](http://www.hollandlandoffice.com)