

Holland Land Office Museum Quick Facts

The Holland Land Company

The Holland Land Company was organized by six banking firms in the Netherlands for the purpose of purchasing unsettled lands in what is now western New York State. In 1792 their agent in the United States was Theophile Cazenove, who on their behalf bought more than three million acres known as the Holland Land Purchase. It included the area west of the Transit Line, located thirteen miles east of here, extending from Lake Ontario south to Pennsylvania. The purchase excluded a strip along the Niagara River and six reservations established for the Indians.

Joseph Ellicott was the company's local agent for more that twenty years. He surveyed towns, and planned roads And mill sites; he laid out the city of Buffalo, promoted canal construction, and dominated party politics in the area.

From its main office in Batavia, the company sold most of the purchase in 360 acre plots, exacting a small down payment. Many settlers faced difficulties in completing payments because of hardships in clearing the land and marketing farm products. Some disliked company policies and rioted against them in 1836. The company had sold all its land by 1837.

From the Holland Purchase, five counties besides the original Genesee County have been formed.

Alleghany.	1806
Cattaraugus	1808
Chautauqua.	1808
Niagara	1808
Erie from Niagara). . .	1821

Part of Genesee Count has also become part of Livingston, Monroe, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties.

In the original Holland Purchase, there are now 129 rural and suburban town and 11 cities.



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