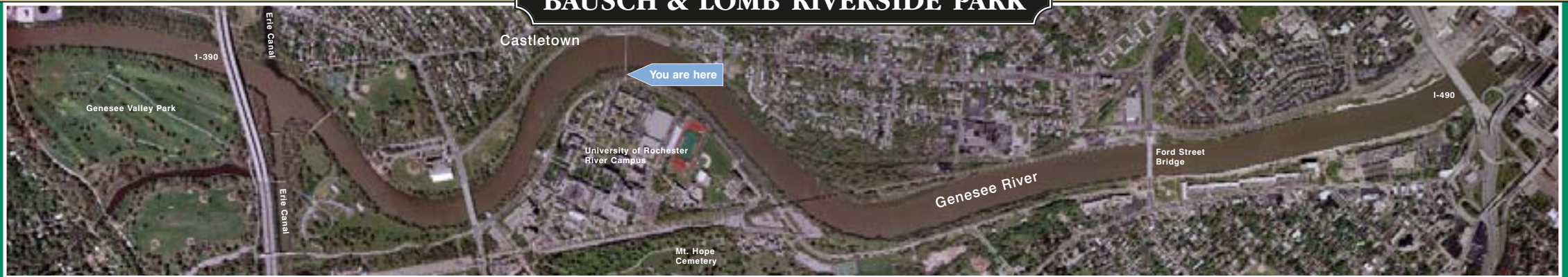
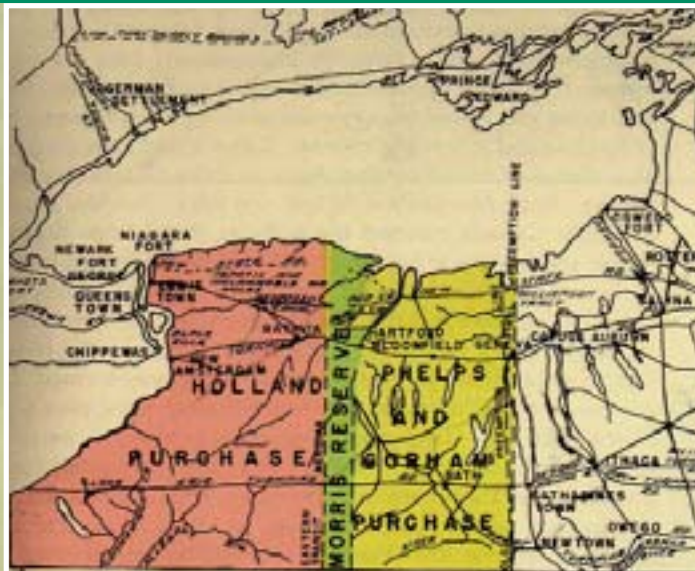


BAUSCH & LOMB RIVERSIDE PARK



Phelps & Gorham Purchase



After the Revolutionary War, both Massachusetts and New York claimed the land that is now Western New York. The Hartford Treaty of 1786 settled the issue by granting ownership of the land to Massachusetts and sovereignty to New York. Massachusetts promptly sold the land to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, who then had to secure title from the Indian nations. Due to financial difficulties, they sold part of the land to financier Robert Morris, while a group of bankers from Amsterdam bought the portion that became known as the Holland Purchase. In 1803, Nathaniel Rochester and two friends purchased one hundred acres of the Morris Reserve that had been resold to Sir William Pulteney. This land became part of downtown Rochester.

Castletown



Before the European settlement of this area, the Genesee River had continuous rapids from just north of the current Elmwood Avenue Bridge to Broad Street in downtown Rochester. An old Indian trail crossed the Genesee River at a ford here at the lowest point of the rapids. This crossing point was also widely used by early settlers and travelers in this region, but was often dangerous.

In the 1790s, James and William Wadsworth purchased land from Phelps and Gorham and could walk from Genesee to Rochester on their own property. James Wadsworth envisioned a settlement at the rapids of the Genesee River where boats from upriver could unload their cargo for the journey down to the falls. In 1800, he built a store and the first tavern in the Genesee country on the west side of the river by the ford and hired Isaac Castle to manage them. Hiram Scrantom and his family crossed on the ferry here in May 1812 on their way to become the first permanent settlers in Rochesterville.



The first bridge across the Genesee opened at Main Street later in 1812, but Castletown remained a thriving settlement until 1822. The Erie Canal reached Rochester that year, and the canal feeder along the east side of the river allowed Genesee River boats to reach downtown Rochester without unloading at Castletown. Over time Castletown lost its identity and became known as The Rapids. In 1845 Otis Turner founded the Baptist Church of the Rapids to serve its notorious residents, including many river and canal boatmen. The neighborhood was annexed to the City of Rochester in 1902. This 1872 map also shows the Genesee Valley Canal that operated from 1840 to 1878. It was connected to the Erie Canal Feeder and Genesee River here to ensure that the Erie Canal would remain open even if the original aqueduct failed.

The River Campus



The University of Rochester was founded in 1850 and occupied a former hotel before moving to the Prince Street campus in 1861. This picture shows the campus about five years after women were admitted as regular students in 1900.



During the nineteenth century, the future River Campus was used for farming, a glue factory, and a distillery. This 1875 map also shows the Erie Canal Feeder.



In 1902 the Oak Hill Country Club built a golf course and clubhouse here. In the 1920s, Oak Hill traded this site to the University for a new course in Pittsford.



In 1925 the University opened a new Medical Center south of Oak Hill. The University opened a new Campus for Men on the former golf course in 1930, while the College for Women remained at the Prince Street Campus.



This aerial photo shows the River Campus in the early 1950s, little changed from the 1930s. The Colleges for Men and Women were rejoined on River Campus in 1955.



The campus saw great growth in the last decades of the 20th century, as shown in this recent aerial photo.