

Northern Christian Advocate Office
16 Clark Street
Auburn, New York

Significance: Site of publication of *Northern Christian Advocate*



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 Looking NW

Abolitionism threatened to disrupt the Union, and many Americans, sympathetic as they might to the plight of people in slavery, were not willing to challenge slaveholders and risk dissolving the country.

This building represents the considerable opposition to abolitionism that existed throughout central New York. Built by the Methodist Publishing House, 16 Clark Street was the site of major publishing efforts of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Here they published their journal, the *Northern Christian Advocate*, for 28 years, beginning in 1841. In 1844, William Hosmer became editor of this newspaper, but his antislavery views made him too radical for Methodist authorities. In 1856, he left the editorship of the *Northern Christian Advocate* to assume control of a new publication, the *Northern Independent*. He published this staunchly abolitionist newspaper at 113 Genesee Street, the same location where Morgan “Luke” Freeman, born in slavery in Auburn in

1803, kept his barbershop, beginning in 1857. For 29 years until his death in 1863, Freeman also kept one of the most important Underground Railroad stations in Auburn, undoubtedly with the assistance of William Hosmer.

Note signs on side of buildings: "PrintingBinding," "Book Bindery."

Researched by Joni Lincoln, Cayuga County Historian's Office.