

English

Atlas Obscura

1872 Monument
Rochester, New York

A bronze ballot box stands at the spot where Susan B. Anthony voted illegally.



On Election Day, 1872, Susan B. Anthony led a group of women from her home on Madison Street in Rochester, New York, to this very spot on West Main Street to vote, despite the fact that women were not legally allowed to do so.

When she arrived, the men running the polling place were reluctant to break the law for her. Nevertheless, she persisted.

At that time the polling place was a barbershop, but today there is a bronze sculpture of a locked ballot box flanked by two pillars that represent the barbershop's storefront.

Dubbed the 1872 Monument, it was dedicated in August 2009, on the 89th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

Leading away from the 1872 Monument is Susan B. Anthony Trail, which leads to Troup Street Park and runs beside the 1872 Café, named in honour of the year of Anthony's illegal vote.

The sculpture is the work of Pepsy Kettavong, who also created the nearby “Let’s Have Tea” sculpture of Anthony and Frederick Douglass, located down the street from Anthony’s house.

Anthony was, of course, arrested, tried, convicted, and fined for voting, though she “never [paid] a dollar of [the] unjust penalty.” The 1872 Monument is just one of many ways her legacy lives on in this New York neighbourhood.

Source: [Curious and Wondrous Travel Destinations - Atlas Obscura](#)

Comprehension questions:

1. Why did Susan B. Anthony's vote in 1872 hold such significance?

Susan B. Anthony's vote in 1872 was significant because women were not legally allowed to vote at that time. Her action was a form of protest to highlight the injustice of denying women the right to vote, which eventually contributed to the passing of the 19th Amendment.

2. What is the symbolism behind the bronze ballot box and the two pillars at the 1872 Monument?

The bronze ballot box symbolizes the illegal vote cast by Susan B. Anthony, and the two pillars represent the barbershop where the voting took place. Together, they commemorate the event and the historical fight for women's voting rights.

3. What was the legal outcome for Susan B. Anthony after she voted in 1872?

Susan B. Anthony was arrested, tried, convicted, and fined for voting illegally. However, she refused to pay the fine, describing it as an “unjust penalty.”

4. How is Susan B. Anthony's legacy preserved in Rochester, New York, apart from the 1872 Monument?

In addition to the 1872 Monument, Susan B. Anthony's legacy is preserved through the nearby "Let's Have Tea" sculpture of her and Frederick Douglass and the Susan B. Anthony Trail, which leads to the 1872 Café named in honour of the year of her illegal vote.

Talking point:

1. The Importance of Susan B. Anthony's Fight for Women's Rights

Discuss why Susan B. Anthony's actions, such as her illegal vote in 1872, were critical to advancing the women's suffrage movement.

2. The Role of Monuments in Preserving History

Talk about how monuments like the 1872 Monument help people remember significant historical events and figures, and why it's important to honor these moments.

3. The Impact of the 19th Amendment on American Society

Explore how the passing of the 19th Amendment in 1920 changed American society, giving women the right to vote and how it paved the way for further gender equality.

VIDEOS

[Susan B. Anthony | One of the Most Influential Suffragists in American History | Britannica](#)

<https://youtu.be/zoKxI75qKJQ?si=bXD-ap-HjVT2vNA4>