The Rochester Congregationalists formed around 1840. The present church was built by the Universalists between 1868 and 1870 and called Grace Church. The Congregationalists bought the building in 1901. In 1908 there was extensive remodeling. A new Hammond organ was installed, as well as a new kitchen and a large community room. While not specifically named Community Church, Mary Ella in her *A Multitude of Witnesses* says, "while never specifically named Community Church, it has functioned as such since its earliest days."

The only thing left of the Rochester Academy is a set of steps lovingly tended by Pete Laughrnan. The Congregational Church was the final owner of the building under the auspices of Beloit College, which took it over as a preparatory school. It acquired the name Rochester Academy by which name the building was thereafter always known. The school lasted until 1910. Originally built as a third hotel for Rochester's heyday, it was never used as such, but a series of schools were held here, which pointed up Rochester's educational emphasis.

*Eileen Albright*