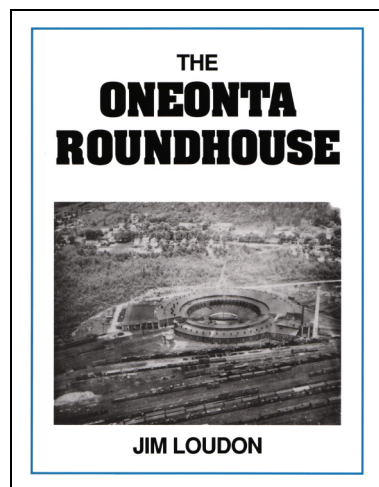


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## Publication Information Sheet



**Title:** The Oneonta Roundhouse  
**Author:** Jim Loudon

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**ISBN-10:** 0-9641119-0-X

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**Retail Price:** \$19.95

**Physical:** 100 pages; 8.5" x 11", black & white interior, softcover, perfect bound, 175 illustrations

**Retail Distribution:** North Country Books

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**Book Summary:** *The Oneonta Roundhouse* provides the definitive account of the birth, life, and death of the world's largest railroad roundhouse, built in the early 1900s in Oneonta, New York. Jim Loudon, a founding member of the Leatherstocking Railway Historical Society, describes in detail the earlier roundhouses built on the site by the Delaware & Hudson Railroad, and how the company's rapid growth led to the turntable's expansion. He provides specific information about the background politics and the construction of the primary roundhouse, and the improvements made to the monumental building over the years. The book is heavily illustrated, with 122 photos and 53 maps and diagrams, including full schematics for the roundhouse, turntable, and adjacent buildings. Other chapters focus on the D&H's Challenger locomotives, and the coal pocket fire of 1946 that ultimately ended in tragedy. The book's epilogue chapter includes Loudon's photographs of the building's twilight, taken only months before the remaining structure was dismantled. First published in 1993 by the Leatherstocking Railway Historical Association, *The Oneonta Roundhouse* went out-of-print after the original printing plates were lost. The book has since been digitally recreated and reprinted by Square Circle Press on behalf of the LRHS.

**Author bio:** Jim Loudon is a native of Otsego County and currently resides in the West End of Oneonta, New York. He graduated from the State University of New York College at Oneonta in 1972 with a BS in Liberal Arts, majoring in art and history. In 1982 Jim organized the Leatherstocking Railway Historical Society, which currently operates the Cooperstown and Charlotte Valley Railroad tourist train ride, and for which he has served as Conductor, Engineer, and Brakeman. For over two decades Jim has devoted his time to researching the local area's railroad history, authoring several articles on the subject, as well as a second book, *Leatherstocking Rails: A History of Railroading Along the Upper Susquehanna* (2005). A practitioner of the visual arts, the subjects of Jim's paintings, drawings and photographs include wildlife, landscapes, locomotives and antique tractors.

**Book review:** "I had always heard about the legendary roundhouse in Oneonta, but with the building long gone I couldn't conceive of its size. Jim Loudon's fascinating narrative, along with his incredible compilation of images and their informative captions, brought the roundhouse to life for me. This book is an indispensable resource not only for railroad buffs, but also for those interested in engineering on a massive scale. It is a valuable document of upstate New York history."

— Richard Vang, Publisher, Square Circle Press