From The New York Times…

Overlooked No More: Louise Blanchard Bethune, Who Changed the Face of Buffalo.

She is widely considered to have been the first American woman to become a certified architect, and she left her stamp throughout western New York and in New England.

By Sydney Franklin
Nov. 4, 2021

This article is part of Overlooked, a series of obituaries about remarkable people whose deaths, beginning in 1851, went unreported in The Times.

Among the architectural greats who contributed to the landscape of Buffalo, N.Y. — among them Frederick Law Olmsted, Frank Lloyd Wright and Henry Hobson Richardson — there was one person who is lesser known but whose impact in shaping the city was just a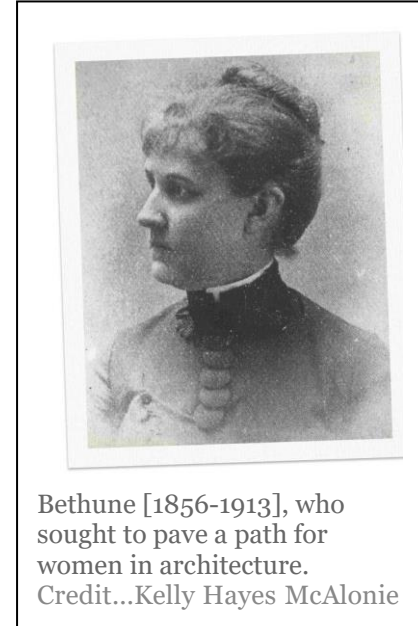s important: Louise Blanchard Bethune. Bethune, who is widely considered by historians to have been the first American woman to become a certified architect, designed 18 schools in western New York, as well as factories, hotels, churches, a baseball grandstand and a women's prison.

Another of her firm's projects, housing the venerable Denton, Cottier & Daniels music store in Buffalo and completed in 1908, was among the first buildings in the country to utilize steel frame construction and poured concrete slabs.

Overall, she and her partners — William R. Fuchs and her husband, Robert Armour Bethune — contributed 180 buildings to Buffalo and New England in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Bethune supervised the construction of many of these projects, biking to and from the work sites each day.

Bethune [1856-1913], who sought to pave a path for women in architecture. Credit…Kelly Hayes McAlonie

A rendering of the building housing the Denton, Cottier & Daniels music store, designed by Bethune's firm. Completed in 1908, it was one of the first buildings in the country made of steel and fire-resistant concrete slabs. **Credit…Kelly Hayes McAlonie**

The rest of this remarkable life story go to: