The Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission

Saturday, May 19, 2018



Tour Guide

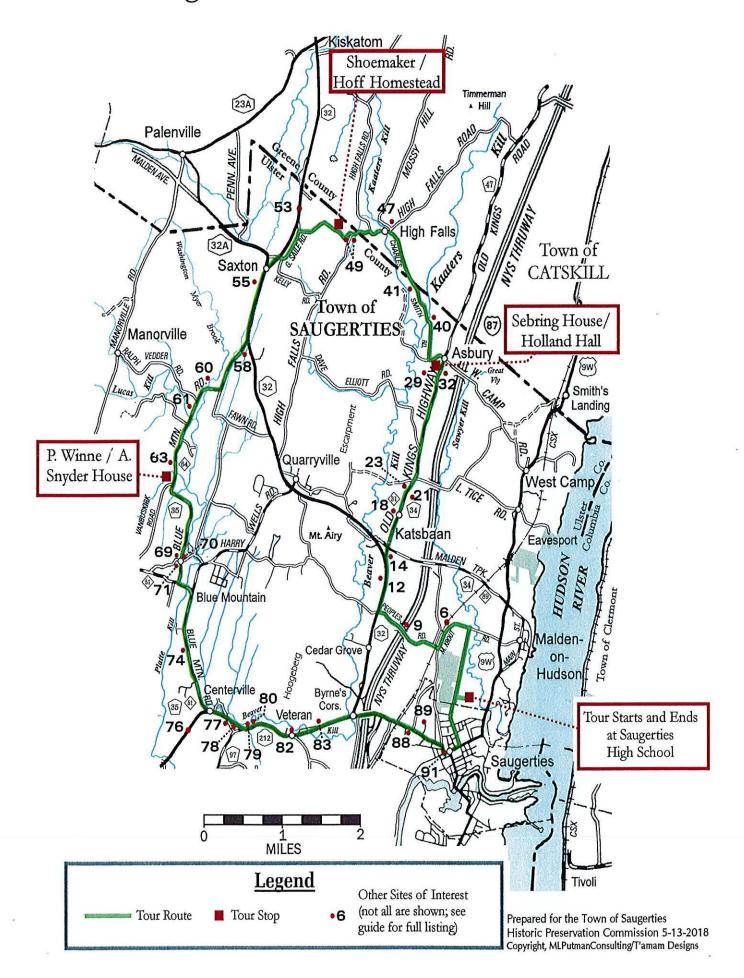
The bus tour will take you on a captivating route offering views of several historic houses including some of the 68 stone houses of Saugerties.

The bus will stop at three of these stone houses where you can stretch your legs and tour inside.



The Town of Saugerties
Historic Preservation Commission

Saugerties Historic House Bus Tour 2018



The logistics of putting together this tour are varied and complex. That a group of volunteers have been able to pull off this day is a tribute to their hard work, dedication, and desire to share the tradition and legacy of Saugerties Historic Houses. I hereby acknowledge and thank the following:

The Historic Preservation Commission – Stefan Yarabek, Chair, Barry Benepe, Susan Puretz, Myles Putman, Michael Sullivan Smith, and ex-officio Audrey Klinkenberg, Town Historian – for their sponsorship of this tour, thereby following the mandate of the 2004 Local Law to protect, enhance and promote architectural and cultural landmarks.

Particular accolades, thanks and appreciation go to each of the members of the Historic House Tour Committee (Jolene Adams, Carla Barrett, Diane Kniss, MaryAlice Lindquist, Lucette Rundsdorf, Lizbeth Shafer, Mark Smith, and Myles Putman and Michael Sullivan Smith as consultants. Together we logged many hours in meetings and many more doing research writing, graphics, logistical planning (including ticket sales and volunteer assignments), design and layout of the tour brochure, and pr outreach.

In addition, special thanks are extended to:

Myles Putman (MLPC/T'amam Designs) for the map and the on-route guide

Michael Sullivan Smith for creating the script used by the bus guide

Gary Grady, professional actor who served as our bus guide

Jolene Adams, our jack of all trades: scripting, ticket creation, refreshments

Chief Joseph Sinagra, and members of the Town of Saugerties Police Department for their help with traffic control

To the many volunteers working at the three house sites as guides

Audrey Klinkenberg for research and her participation as a "resource" to answer questions on genealogy on the day of the tour

Angie Gaffney-Smith and Peigi Mulligan for help with research connected to the Shoemaker Hoff house

Marvelene Beach for editing this pamphlet

Nancy Campbell for her watercolor of the Benjamin Ten Broeck House

Fred Costello, Town of Saugerties Supervisor, and his staff for their support

Paul Andreassen and John Schoonmaker, Town Board liaisons to the Historic Preservation Commission

Everyone at Saugerties Town Hall, for their support and help to the Historic House Tour Committee

A very special thank you to the owners of the three historic properties for graciously opening their doors to welcome the tour participants. Without them the tour could not have happened.

Susan Puretz, Historic House Tour Committee Chair

Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission Historic House Tour

Today, we welcome you to our fifth Saugerties Historic House Tour. This year we are celebrating our 68 Stone Houses as well as the history of the hamlet of Asbury, in the north east quadrant of Saugerties.

Your host today is the Town of Saugerties HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION. To protect its historic resources, the Town of Saugerties established the Commission in 2004 under the provisions of its Municipal Law and the National Preservation Act of 1966. To fulfill the local law's requirements, five members with a "significant interest in and commitment to the field of historic preservation" are appointed to the Commission. They serve in staggered terms to insure continuity of knowledge and policy.

In 2005, the Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission, with a grant from The Preservation League of New York State and the assistance of many volunteers, documented 155 Saugerties historic treasures, including almost 98 percent of the stone houses in a report entitled Town of Saugerties New York Historic Resources Survey, March 2005. Thus far we have showcased 14 of our historic resources ranging from two of the earliest stone houses to Opus 40, an abandoned bluestone quarry that was transformed in the twentieth century into the largest earthwork sculpture built by a single artist.

The buildings for this year's tour were chosen to illustrate the "growth and development" of Saugerties in its early years as settlers moved into the northeast quadrant.

We hope you enjoy the tour.

Historic Preservation Commission: Stefan Yarabek, Chair, Barry Benepe, Susan Puretz, Myles Putman, Michael Sullivan Smith and Audrey Klinkenberg, ex-officio, Town Historian, Paul Andreassen and John Schoonmaker, Town Board Liaisons

Historic House Tour Committee: Susan Puretz, chair, Jolene Adams, Carla Barrett, Diane Kniss, Mary Alice Lindquist, Lucette Rundsdorf, Lizbeth Shafer, Mark Smith (with Myles Putman and Michael Sullivan Smith as consultants)

Please be advised that the Historic Houses
on this tour were built before modern construction codes existed.
By purchasing the ticket to this tour, each participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the property owners, the Town of Saugerties, its officers, its Historic Preservation Commission and all tour volunteers, from any and all liability claims and damages arising from or relating to participation in the Saugerties Historic House Tour 2018.

A Bird's Eye View of Saugerties History

Saugerties today reflects an illustrious past: from its miles of Hudson River frontage first visited by Henry Hudson, to the old road bed and paths that lead down from the nearby escarpment heights of the Catskills.

It has been said that the name Saugerties came from "the little sawyer," a Dutchman who operated a sawmill back in the mid 1600's where the Esopus Creek enters the Hudson. Whether that is true or not, Saugerties has the unique distinction of being the only community in the nation with this name.

In the spring of 1811 the town of Saugerties in Ulster County began its life when it separated from the Town of Kingston. Its history, however, started 131 years earlier when the current land was part of "The Kinston Commons" created by the 1688 charter to the Corporation of Kingston. Period documents, survey maps, early roads, and our 68 extant stone houses all point to this Colonial period.

Saugerties' first growth spurt occurred predominantly from the Palatine immigration of 1711. The Palatines, a group of refugees who had fled the Rhine Valley in Germany, settled first in West Camp and then began pioneering at Kaatsbaan, along the Saxton Flats, and toward the Woodstock Valley. Others followed. Three hamlets became stabilized in that area due to the intersections of "clove" roads (coming down from the mountains) with the Kings Highway. The Saugerties Historic House Bus Tour celebrates the Palatines, Dutch, German, and English immigration and the houses these settlers built in the north quadrant.

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The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck for providing costumes for the event

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STONE HOUSES

Stone houses are the most permanent landmarks in our cultural history. They are the only reminders of our colonial past; but many are hidden in rural settings among newer buildings or tucked away on former farms.

Colonization of the Hudson Valley began with the Dutch in the mid 1620s, and although the Dutch had political control of the area for less than a half-century, their influence — especially in architecture — was profound. Many houses representing Dutch influence still abound and are of keen interest to architectural historians.

Early Dutch immigrants brought their architectural ideas to the New World and reflecting their folk heritage, the original stone houses in Saugerties were built in a rural Dutch style, usually with fieldstone, limestone, or bluestone quarried on the property. The settlers built farmhouses distinguished by, among other things, one room with cellar and loft (referred to as one-and-one-half stories high), jamb-less fireplaces, large roof spans, and steep gable roofs. However, great variation was found in the house's proportions, window sizes and arrangements, and roof angles that reflected the owner's tastes, desires, and circumstances as well as the environment and the site.

All family living and business happened in the one room, with the center of life being the hearth. Furniture was sparse and was moved about to accommodate a succession of functions: food preparation, eating, meeting of guests, doing business, sleeping, etc. Of comfort, there was little.

As settlers outgrew the one-room house, they built more living space: The original one-room house remained as a wing attached to or incorporated into the new house.

Often the addition simply duplicated the original house, the two sections existing side by side, with a new entrance of double Dutch doors giving access to the entire house.

The new entrance hallway was now flanked on one side by the old one-room house and on the other by the new wing, usually internally partitioned into two rooms.

A two-foot thick hallway wall is always evidence of the position of the original house.

Sometimes, the new wing was built two stories high, leaving the original wing to become a kitchen and the attic workrooms for carpentry and weaving. Frequently an adjacent structure was added as a summer kitchen, built separately, to avoid overheating the main house during warm weather.

While somewhat similar in style to the Dutch stone houses, a distinguishing characteristic of many Palatine (German immigrants who migrated to the Hudson Valley in 1710) houses was that they were built into hillsides. These "bank houses" with part of the ground floor built into a bank made the most use out of a hilly landscape, an arrangement that kept the floor cool in summer, warm in winter, and sheltered the house from the wind year-round. The entrance to the ground floor was at the base of the hillside. Another clever site plan used by many German settlers was realized by building their houses over a stream or spring, thus supplying indoor running cold water and a refrigeration system for food.

Today, we invite you to follow the history of the northeast quadrant of Saugerties by observing stone houses, dating back to the early Dutch and Palatine settlers.

Vintage Postcards of Saugerties

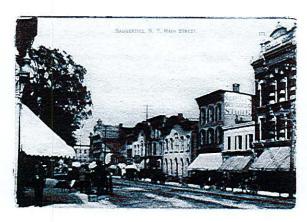






Vintage Postcards of Saugerties







Some examples of the many stone houses in Saugerties.







Sebring House/Holland Hall

2079 Old Kings Highway

The original Sebring House, also known as Holland Hall, was a one-story Dutch limestone farmhouse built in the early 18th century. A stone on the north wall of the house reveals a faint date of 1705. In 1840 the house underwent a major expansion. The result is a surprisingly large and elegant two-story symmetrical stone house with gable roof and dentils and a centrally located entryway with sidelights flanked by two windows. The carefully dressed stone walls of the house provide a formal appearance with four equally large windows on the second floor aligned with the two outermost windows below. The walk along the south side of the house was made of the bricks used for insulation in the walls of the 1840 wood frame extension.

The Sebring House may have been named after Rev. Arad Joy Sebring, who had lived here and been pastor of the Katsbaan Reformed Church between 1885 and 1916. During an earlier time, the house had been the home of Rev. John Crawford and his wife Catharine, nee Trumpbour.

The Rev Crawford soldiered in the Revolution for the entire war entering at age 16 and serving until he was 22. He became the first circuit rider in the Albany Circuit as a Methodist preacher in 1787 and retired from preaching in 1819, being directly responsible for growing this circuit from no Methodists to 3,000 in the period. In 1794 he married Catherine Trumpbour and resided in this stone house during this period, until his death in 1851 at 91 years of age.

The Trumbour family (also spelled Drumbauer) was of Palatine descent and were the first settlers in Asbury as the Palatines moved westward from West Camp. It is probable that the house was built on land that originally was owned by the Trumpours --whose stone house, on the National and State Registrar of Historic Places, is located directly across from Sebring House/Holland Hall.

The house was at the point of collapse when, in 1975, the parents of the previous owners, Cathy and Peter Duvaloois, began a major reconstruction, carefully rebuilding the outside limestone walls, the collapsing porches, window sashes, casements, and shutters. Inside, fireplaces were refurbished, original beams and paint on portions of the ceiling exposed. Wide board flooring was repaired and paneling restored according to old pictures provided by neighbors.

Among other interesting items discovered during reconstruction was: a copy of the Ulster County Gazette, dated January 4, 1800, containing George Washington's obituary found below one of the window sills on the second floor; a newspaper fragment, dated June 15, 1842, found on the northeast side of the upper floor, partially encased in plaster stuffed between window frame and walls that are two feet deep; and a Knickerbocker Soda bottle (circa 1848) discovered under a floor board.

The current owners, Lauren Anderson and Andrew McVinish, are ardent collectors of the decorative arts.

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- 88. Myer House on R (next to car wash); #21 Teetsel Street. Stone dwelling, constructed 1763. One of several stone houses in Saugerties associated with the Myer family. National Register Eligible. Private residence.
- 89. 169 Ulster Avenue, SPAC (Saugerties Performing Arts Center), on L. Formerly Cantine's Tissue Factory, which manufactured crepe paper.
- 90. Junction of Ulster Avenue and Market Street. An early "gateway" into the Village at the original easterly terminus of the Saugerties-Woodstock Turnpike. Jeremiah Russell is a noteworthy figure from the 19th century who engaged in land speculation following completion of the Turnpike. He was also a merchant and a "private banker" and later owned a local bluestone quarry.

On the left at 15 Ulster Avenue (next to the Smoker's Choice shop) is the Russell House, built in 1840. On the right, 8 Ulster Avenue, currently the offices of Polaski Dental, is the Ellen Russell Finger House, which about 100 years ago housed the Old Ladies Home. National Register Eligible

91. Main - Partition Streets Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1982, encompasses much of the Village's historic center, and covers portions of Market Street as well. The village center was the longest continuously developing commercial center of its kind still intact in the state, linking road travel to river travel.

Kiersted's 1825 map of Saugerties shows that even before incorporation, the future village's downtown street grid was well-established. The alignment of Main and Partition streets echo the alignment of one of the Meals and Hayes patents from 1687. The southerly boundary of the patent can be roughly traced along the alignments of Jane and Division Streets, which run parallel to Main Street. This patent extended from the Sawyer Kill at its east end, westerly to the Tannery Brook.

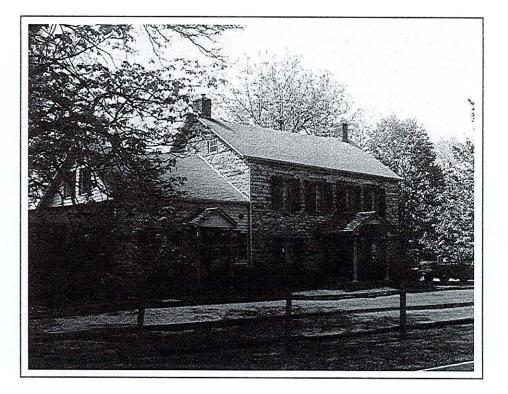
East of Partition, Main Street was originally surfaced with a brick pavement when it was improved as part of the state highway system in 1918; other sections were surfaced with concrete, possibly the first such roads in the county.

- 92. State Historic Marker, on L (in front of Smith's Hardware) Post Tavern "Used as patriots' meeting place during Revolution. Articles of Association signed here. Religious services held here 1815-29."
- 93. Washington Avenue owes its origins in part to post-Civil War land subdivisions, specifically the Laflin and the Kiersted Homestead plats. The street grid east of Washington developed in several phases, before and after World War II, including one neighborhood platted (Murray Park) during the later 1950's, during the early "IBM" era.
- 94. Cahill Elementary School, on R at intersection of Washington Avenue (#134 Main Street). Early "graded" school, built in 1907 and expanded in 1923 and 1997.
- 95. Saugerties Public Library (#91 Washington Avenue), on R, past Cahill School. One of many community libraries funded by industrialist Andrew Carnegie, Built in 1915, expanded in 2011.
- 96. DuBois/Kiersted House, home of the Saugerties Historical Society, 119 Main Street, just east of Washington Avenue. Stone house dating to 1728, built by a member of the DuBois family whom Dr. Kiersted married into. National Register (listed 1998).

State Historical Marker: "Of pre-Revolutionary days. Home of Dr. Christopher Kiersted. First physician in Town. Rendered service during Revolutionary War."

- 97. 201 Washington Avenue, on R at corner of Finger Street. Large frame dwelling built in 1887. National Register Eligible. Private residence.
- 98. Cantine Memorial Field, on L. Large, centralized park and recreation complex that serves residents of both the Town and Village. Home of the Saugerties Garlic Festival, held each autumn.

End tour at Saugerties High School



The Shoemaker/Hoff Homestead

56 Nelson Hoff Road

The Shoemaker/Hoff Homestead is a fine example of a house that was probably built around the time of the Revolution [although also likely to be a pre-Revolution house], with a structural design reflective of a defensive house abreast the main route that marked the northern boundary of the Kingston Commons sixth and Northwest classes. It is a stone house with dimensions of thirty-two feet long by fifteen feet deep, one and a half stories high, located on the north side of Nelson Hoff Road. The field stones used in its construction came from one of three nearby ledges (later quarried) located on the north side of Nelson Hoff Road.

The house has a single bay layout originally with both basement and side hall entry, faces south and is embanked. The front facade is asymmetrical and the entry which was originally under a simple porch with turned columns and a shed roof was located at the northwest corner of the house. There are two windows on the first floor level of this facade. Two dormers covered in asbestos siding have been added on the roof, which is gabled. There is one stone chimney near the east end of the building.

The lower level was originally a cellar kitchen with a fireplace and a swinging crane still in place. There are signs there was a beehive extension for an oven through the outside wall beside the hearth. The hearth for heating the main rooms is also intact with its original brick lining. A half story above has twin lights on each gable face. This level is accessed by a narrow set of stairs stacked on the set from the dugout level, now blocked and used as a closet. The fenestration is the original deeply beveled openings in the two foot thick walls, half as much wider on the inside as the windows are on the outside. The exterior stone walls appear extremely sound, skillfully laid, and the mortar appears original. In several areas where a frame addition covered them, recent renovations have left the exterior stone exposed to the inside

There are at least two simple frame additions to the north and to the west. These frame additions on the back and upper side are from a later period and are what is common for a late eighteenth century auxiliary kitchen and living area expansion. The west addition had a shed roof and was one-story high until it was renovated in 2016. The addition to the north is two stories in height and may have been constructed in stages at various dates. The construction of amenities coincided with the needs of a growing family, young and old, immediate and extended. For example, the family modernized the Homestead as indoor plumbing became more convenient and affordable, while the kitchen moved from the cellar to the main floor as it became the hub of family life and farm activity.

The house is surrounded by fields, and many barns and outbuildings (necessary as part of a working farm), and a modern garage.

The house is situated on farmland that has passed through generations of the Shoemaker/Lasher/Hoff families, with many connections to other longstanding local families including the Dillons and Myers. Genealogically speaking, Peter Shoemaker was one of three brothers who emigrated from Holland; he settled in Ulster County. His son Peter had a distinguished record of service in the Revolutionary War. He married Maria Wolf at the Katsbaan Reformed Dutch Church in 1780, and they had nine children.

The Turnpike remained in operation until 1901, and was improved as a state highway in sections between 1901 and 1905. The present highway alignment is predominantly the result of a 1930's Depression-Era reconstruction project.

77. Centerville Church Road, on R. One of several old sections of the turnpike road that were bypassed by the 1930's state reconstruction project.

Silas Brianard (aka Rapp) House, on R (#25 Centerville Church Road), partially visible. House was constructed between 1834 and 1849. Good example of stone architecture dating from the early bluestone industry era. Private residence.

- 78. United Methodist Church of Centerville, on R (#16 Centerville Church Road), frame building constructed around 1850. Screened heavily by vegetation, but the church sign is visible along Route 212.
- 734 Route 212, on L. Jeremiah Russell Turnpike House Stone structure (ruins) on left, just past Fish Creek Road. Constructed during the 1820's. National Register Eligible. Private property.
- 80. 726 Route 212, on L (just past the day spa). Mulford Tavern/Jacob DuBois House; Stone house, built around 1803. Private residence. National Register Eligible.
- 81. Veteran is a settlement located in a natural gap in the Hoogeberg Escarpment, carved by the upper reaches of the Beaver Kill. The settlement developed primarily as a result of bluestone industry, following a linear pattern along present-day Route 212. The installation of the Village's water main along the highway spurred further development. The hamlet was originally known as "Unionville."
- 604 Route 212, Former Veteran School. Stone structure (ruins) on left. Built around 1834, privately owned.
- 83. 545 Route 212 / 108 Old 212, Snyder Farmstead. Stone farmhouse (c.1750) is perched on a hillside to your left at the junction of Old Route 212. National Register Eligible. Open fields on left side of NY Route 212, are used for outdoor sculptures and similar artwork. The hillside is also a local sled and toboggan spot. Portions of farm property were used for the Woodstock '94 music festival. Private property.
- 84. The "Churchland", extending south to Mount Marion, was a part of the Kingston Commons farmed to support the Dutch Reformed Church under an agreement between the original settlers and the proprietor (English) colonial government dating back to 1664. These lands were settled up to the north bounds of the Commons which, in 1683, was the division line between the Ulster and Albany counties, which was then located a short distance south of present-day Route 212, and well south of the current Greene County border.
- 85. Winston Farm property on L, at gated access road. Site of Woodstock '94. The existing farm house is National Register eligible. Private property.
- 86. Byrne's Corners. Historic crossroads in the Town of Saugerties, where the Kings Highway crossed the Saugerties-Woodstock Turnpike. Construction of the Thruway in 1948 significantly changed the alignment of highways in this area of the Town. The current alignment and character of Route 212 over the next half-mile dates from a mid-1990's reconstruction project, while the commercial development is directly a result of the Thruway construction.
- 87. Present-day Ulster Avenue in the Village of Saugerties was also once part of the Saugerties Woodstock Turnpike, but this section was abandoned to the Village in 1889. Initially traversing an area of farms, the completion of the West Shore Railroad in 1883 spurred on the first wave of low density commercial "strip" development, similar to what has happened along Route 212 near the Thruway many years later. Businesses that relocated here had need for direct access to the railroad. Between 1910 and 1915, industrialist Martin Cantine had plans to develop both industries and residences along this section of Ulster Avenue.

Ulster Avenue was improved under contract to the state (with county financial participation) in 1918-1920. It is believed that the old tram stones of the turnpike era were removed at that time, and ultimately found their resting place at Seamon Park. Ulster Avenue was rebuilt by the state in the 1990's, including curbs, parking lanes and sidewalks.

- 62. 994 Blue Mountain Rd. Old farm house on L, built 1850. Private residence.
- 63. 859 Blue Mountain Rd. Fick Family Farms. Scenic farm lot on both sides of the road, with views of the Catskills. House was built in 1850. Private residence.
- 64. P. Winne / A. Snyder House. TOUR STOP 3. See detailed description in this booklet.
- 65. Blue Mountain. As colonial-era settlement took place, a road soon developed running roughly north-south from present-day Mount Marion into Greene County. By the 1800's there was a well-used roadway spanning east to west, linking the Village of Saugerties with the Platte Clove at West Saugerties, and functioning at times as a "shunpike" (see entry #8). The hamlet of Blue Mountain, originally called "Fawns", developed at this strategic crossroads. The Reformed Church and old Schoolhouse define the historic hamlet center.

The name "Blue Mountain" is cited by historian Alf Evers as evidence of an attempt to replace Dutch-derived names with English ones. The term "Blue Mountains" was intended to supercede the "Catskills" name.

- 66. Lamouree Road, on R. Older alignment of the Blue Mountain Saxton route.
- 67. 601 Blue Mountain Road, frame house, R. c.1893. Private residence.
- 68. 591 597 Blue Mountain Road, frame house, on R. c.1900 Private residences.
- 69. Blue Mountain Reformed Church, on R (Briefly visible from road). Victorian design, built in 1852 but extensively remodeled 1883-84. National Register Eligible.
- 70. Blue Mountain School House, on L (brightly painted); briefly visible from road (partially screened by vegetation). Frame building, constructed 1895. Private residence. National Register Eligible. East of the schoolhouse site is the Village of Saugerties reservoir on the Platte Kill.
- 71. 563 Blue Mountain Road, on R. Greek Revival vernacular house. Private residence.
- 72. 543 Blue Mountain Road, on R. Simple frame house, c. 1850. Private residence.
- 73. West Saugerties county road 51, Project 2 (Centerville-Blue Mountain-West Saugerties). First county road construction project in the Town (1930-31) under the revised state highway laws. Primary feeder route for local area traffic. The corridor between Centerville and West Saugerties had been the subject of several previous and unsuccessful efforts to be improved as a state highway.
- 74. Blue Mountain Road (south section, past the Mountain View Deli/Market). Development along this road followed the completion of the village water supply main in the 1880's, as all abutting landowners had a right to access this water supply.

Two of the older dwellings on this section of Blue Mountain Road are at #292 on the left (frame house built in 1870) and further south on the right, #25 Freleigh Road (on an old section of road), a two-story frame house, with Queen Anne style elements, built in 1890. Private residences.

75. Centerville hamlet. Crossroads between the Saugerties - Woodstock Turnpike and the road leading to Blue Mountain and the Platte Clove. Appears on some older maps as part of the hamlet of "Unionville". Also referenced in past years as "Felten's Corners" and "Kleebers".

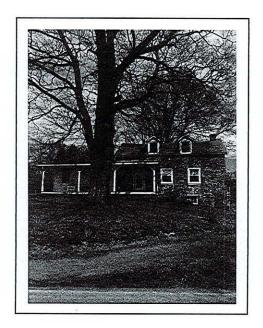
Multifamily frame dwelling on L, at the intersection (#6 Blue Mountain Road), was operated about 100 years ago as "Kleeber's Hotel".

76. Saugerties-Woodstock Turnpike. NY State Route 212 follows the route of the Woodstock and Saugerties Turnpike. The road followed original Indian paths, and was later used to connect the Livingston estate sawmills in present-day Woodstock with docking facilities in the present-day Village of Saugerties. The general line of this road westward defined the earliest border between the original counties of Albany and Ulster until 1764, and is shown on the 1765 Cockburn map. Farms lining this road would have been active before the Kingston Commons redefined its northern border into these lands after that date.

Their son Godfrey was born in 1792 and raised on his father's farm. He became a farmer and served in the War of 1812. He married Catherine Schoonmaker in Rensselaerville in 1818. They also had nine children, one of whom, Alfred, married Elmira Longdyke. One of their two sons, William, married Marin Lasher, and they were the parents of four children. One of their sons, Peter, married Alveretta Shoemaker. They had a son, Merton, and a daughter, Lizzie, who married Nelson Hoff.

Nelson H. Hoff, after whom the nearby road is named, was one of the few farmers in the area to own a thresher (a machine to beat grain from its husk). He provided threshing at neighboring farms for a fee or bartered his services for goods. At one time, the farm raised geese for sale to New York City residents.

The current owners are Robert and Ginny Miller, and the Homestead is a working farm. They continue the family tradition of raising livestock and haying the fields. Robert is a nephew of Nelson R. Hoff and grandson of Lizzie Shoemaker Hoff. His mother, Helena Hoff, was Lizzie's daughter. She married George Miller. Robert inherited the property after his uncle's death in 1992. He has continued to maintain the farm both before and after his recent retirement.



Peter Winne/Abraham Snyder House

815 Blue Mountain Road

This house has two names associated with it because according to the "narrative description of the property" in the 2005 Saugerties Historic Resource Survey, there are "houses associated with both names in this vicinity on the Kingston Commons map." However, on this same 1803 Kingston Commons division map showing reserved land, there is also a house pictured with the caption "Abraham Snyder's Farm 86 3/4 Acres". The house is located along the west side of Blue Mountain Road and its location is distinct because of the placement of the road and the road's crossing of the Plattekill Creek. It was also known as the Bretscher House in the 1975 D.A.R. directory (The Old Stone Houses of Saugerties Township) after a previous owner and on page 15 is a photo from a "sketch made from a picture taken 1928." The DAR publication dates the house as from 1818; however, given that the house first appeared in the tax records in 1793 an earlier date (c 1800) is more likely.

Genealogically speaking: Abraham Snyder (1751-1830) was the son of Martinus Snyder (1698-1778) and Annah Demuth Becker (1703-1787) who were married September 02, 1722, in Germany and most likely immigrated to America, about 1723, with their first child, Henry. The other thirteen offspring were born in America.

On November 30, 1775, Abraham married Maria Freligh (1754-1838) in Ulster County, NY. They had eight children. Abraham was a captain in the Continental Army, along with several others of his male siblings. Interestingly, one of the Snyder brothers was captured by the Tories and Indians in a raid into the town of Saugerties, New York, on Saturday, May 6, 1780, and was taken to Canada, where he was a prisoner for over two years. There is also an association between the Snyders and the original Palatine settler, Christian Myer.

Unlike other stone houses of the period, this is an unusual stone house in that it is a raised stone foundation built into a bank, with a frame two-story top section and a front porch. The stone section of the house is obscured by a wood porch. This wood porch is also located under the gables of the house; it has round supports on both levels and a railing on the second story. The roof of the house is gabled and the gable ends face north and south. The porch roof extends from the main gable in a lean-to configuration. The main entry to the house is in the center of the ground floor. There are two dormers with shed roofs on the front. The side facade contains a doorway to the porch and four windows.

- 49. Nelson Hoff Road. Early-mid 19th century road, first appears on the 1853 Tillson and Brink map, connecting High Falls with Saxton and Palenville. Houses at the intersection of High Falls Road (in Saugerties) were built in the 15 years period preceding World War I.
- Shoemaker / Hoff Homestead. TOUR STOP 2. See detailed description in this booklet.
- 51. Saxton and Blue Mountain "flats". To the west and downslope of the Hoogeberg Escarpment is a broad upland area, extending to the base of the Catskills and north into Greene County, consisting of deep, richly productive sandy soils very suitable for agriculture. Colonial-era settlers came into this area northerly from Kingston and southwesterly from Leeds. Geomorphologists would describe the sand deposits near Blue Mountain and Saxton as alluvial pediments, developed over countless years of deposition from streams busily eroding the Catskill Mountains.
- 52. Saxton. Crossroads community, originally known as Brett's Corners, formed at the junction of the Malden Turnpike and the road leading north through the farmlands of Kiskatom and Lawrenceville, later known as the "mail route" between Saxton and Cairo.
- 53. Farm-to-Market road built 1939-1940. In 1939, the state began building a new highway along what was then known as the "mail route" between Saxton and Cairo. This was a Farm-to-Market road, constructed under the newly-implemented Federal Aid Secondary Highway program, one of several such projects in the Hudson Valley. The terms of the construction placed the new highway under the jurisdiction of Ulster and Greene Counties, but the realities of WW II led a state take-over in 1943. This completed a "gap" that had previously existed on State Route 32 between Palenville & Cairo.

The engineering design standards at the time dictated that the old, irregular alignment of the "mail route" be bypassed. George Saile Road, which follows the old, town-maintained mail route, was named for one of the landowners whose property was taken for the new highway.

54. Malden Turnpike. Developed by Asa Bigelow in the mid-1800's to facilitate traffic movements between the port facilities at Malden and the "mountain towns" of Greene County. It was originally incorporated as the "Bristol Turnpike". Materials moved along the road included hides and bluestone; later in that century the road became an important passenger route to hotels in or near Haines Falls, Tannersville and Hunter.

The Malden Turnpike remained in operation until 1903 when its assets were acquired by the County by eminent domain, and the road became the Town of Saugerties' responsibility. The portion between Katsbaan and Palenville was improved as a state highway (present-day Route 32) in sections by 1926, as an early Federal-Aid highway project.

- 55. 3955 Route 32, on R (just past the Big Belly Deli / Valero). This frame residence is an example of "American Four-Square" design, built in 1934. The house is adjacent to the cornfields maintained by Story Farms, which provide a spectacular view of the Catskill "Mural Front" in a pastoral setting.
- 56. 3909 Route 32, on R. Frame house dating to 1910. Private residence.
- 57. Blue Mountain Road. Follows an old colonial-era pathway through Saxton and Blue Mountain. The section of the road north of Blue Mountain hamlet was improved by Ulster County in 1931-1932 as the Blue Mountain Saxton County Road 64. This was the second county road construction project in the Town (1931-32) after the West Saugerties route (described below).
- 58. 1228 Blue Mountain Road, "Grant Cole House", on L. Stone house built into a small knoll, dating from around 1760. There is a frame addition on the east side of the building. Barns are immediately adjacent to the road. National Register Eligible. Private residence.
- 59. Cotton Road (on R) is a section of the older Blue Mountain Saxton route that was bypassed by the County. 10 Cotton Road, partially visible on the right, is a frame house dating from 1813. Private residence.
- 60. 1083 Blue Mountain Road, just past Fawns Road. Large frame dwelling, on R (on knoll) on large (19.2 acre) open property. Built c.1795. Private residence.
- 61. 1025 Blue Mountain Road, Ira Shoub Place on R. Simple stone house from 1786 with several frame additions. There are unconfirmed reports that this site was once a schoolhouse. National Register Eligible. Private residence.

Members of the family are buried in the small graveyard located just south of the site on the opposite side of the road (identified as the "Shoub" Cemetery on the USGS maps).

- 2111 Old Kings Highway, just north of Schoolhouse Road. One family dwelling, c.1798; frame construction, white exterior.
- 37. 4 Schoolhouse Road, on R; frame dwelling; c.1901. On same parcel, next to Old Kings Highway is a local Historic Marker installed by Cahill Elementary School: "Victory in 1777 Tradition tells that troops from the battle of Saratoga were greeted here, feasted and escorted down the Kings Road by joyous townspeople."
- 38. Asbury Cemetery and Church site on R. Methodist Church Historic Landmark Number 297. The church was re-purposed during the 20th century as a grange hall. The frame building has since been demolished due to long-term deterioration.
- 39. West Camp, High (Great) Falls and Kiskatom corridor. A road running in a general northwesterly direction from West Camp, passing near the High (or Great) Falls of the Kaaterskill, and continuing towards the base of the mountains first appears on the Ulster County map prepared by Rawdon & Clark in 1828, albeit in a very schematic alignment. A road leading west from the "stage road to Albany" at West Camp is also shown in Colles' 1789 "A Survey of Roads of he United States of America", suggesting the corridor had developed just under 100 years after the arrival of the Palatines at present-day West Camp.

In past years, there were two public roadways on either side of the Kaaters Kill, as Wilhelm Road at one time connected though to the present-day High Falls road just across the county line.

- 40. 96 & 98 Charles Smith Road, "Comfort Smith Farm" on R, just before bridge. Stone house and frame house; east side of stream crossing. 88+ acres; c.1810-11. National Register Eligible. Private residence.
- 41. 187 Charles Smith Rd; "Camp Adrian" on L. "Stick" style house. Built 1876-78. National Register Eligible. Private residence.
- 42. Northern Boundary of Ulster County. Present-day boundary established after the Revolution, following years of dispute with neighboring Albany County over jurisdiction of the northerly half of the present-day Town, then part of the Kingston Commons. Became the southerly bounds of Greene County when it was created in 1800.
- 43. The Hoogeberg Escarpment describes the east-facing sandstone and shale ridge that runs through the Town from north to south, located just west of and parallel to the Thruway. The gentle "back" side of the ridge follows the dip of the bedrock, akin to a "cuesta". The base of escarpment is underlain by black shale, while low area to the east is underlain by limestone with a thick cover of clay and silt.
- 44. High Falls. Crossroads hamlet adjacent to waterfalls on the Kaaters Kill, in the Town of Catskill, not to be confused with the Ulster County hamlet of the same name. On some maps this settlement is labeled as "Great Falls".
- 45. 400 Charles Smith Road, Town of Catskill, on the right at the STOP sign. "High Falls" is a frame 2 to 3 story dwelling on the right, built into a small knoll. This site was used as part of Camp Rip Van Winkle between 1917 and 1968.
- 46. Bridge over the Kaaters Kill. Site of a covered bridge in the 19th century. The "High Falls" (or "Great Falls") of the Kaaters Kill are south of the bridge (on private property).
- 47. 590 Mossy Hill Road, Town of Catskill; "Mossy Hill House", on R, across creek, visible from bridge. Stone dwelling dating to late 1600's or early 1700's; with frame additions from the 1920's and 2013. Also once part of Camp Rip Van Winkle. Private residence.
- 48. High Falls District 20 School, located on R on High Falls Road (about a quarter-mile north of Nelson Hoff Rd.), still stands and is now in use as a private residence. Just beyond this was the site of a Methodist Church. About a half mile further north was the site of the Laflin & Smith gunpowder mill, situated on a small stretch of rapids of the Kaaters Kill, which was in operation during the 19th century. Sawmills and grist mills serving High Falls were located further upstream from the powder mill.

At the main entrance on the ground floor, an original Dutch door leads into a house which previous owners, Julie and Efrain Carbonell, have beautifully restored, and modernized with care and taste to retain and recapture the characteristics of the early period. The main room displays regional antiques such as a 19th century bench table. Newly-built cupboards are hidden behind wooden period walls. The original floorboards, damaged from resting directly on dirt ground, were replaced, but the beams and ceiling boards are all original.

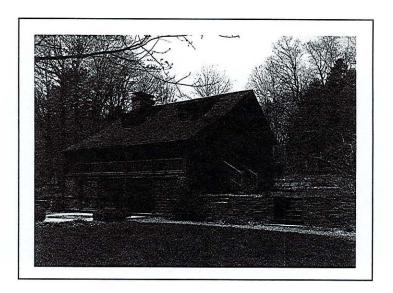
The newly built brick chimney at the south end has fireplaces on the ground and main floor. The locations of beams and arrangement of the hearth base suggest an earlier fireplace in this location. The walls of the two enlarged bedrooms on the second floor retain the original mixture of mud, horsehair and hay applied between split saplings. A new bathroom with old fixtures contains a stunning copper bathtub.

To the northeast of the main house, a small frame cottage was renovated and greatly expanded with original and reproduced beams, boards, doors, windows, moldings and hinges of the early period. A former breezeway was turned into a garage.

At the southeast end of the property is an old stone well and an original stone outbuilding, possibly a former ice-house, smokehouse or summer kitchen. Incised into one of the outside stones to the right of the entrance is the date 1831 and inside, centered on the white-washed south wall, a decoratively set stone gives the date 1844. There are no initials.

The house now has terraced gardens, stone walls, and patios.

The current owner is Jolene Adams.



Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveler, long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth; Then took the other, as just as fair, And having perhaps the better claim, Because it was grassy and wanted wear; Though as for that the passing there Had worn them really about the same,

From Robert Frost's 'The Road Not Taken'

Getting There is Half the Fun.... a guidebook for sites Along the Way

What follows are descriptions of the many sights you saw as you travelled the roads with us...



We hope this booklet will serve as a reminder of the Historic House Tour of May 19, 2018.



The following route descriptions were assembled courtesy of Myles Putman(MLPC/T'amam Designs)

- 21. Lazy Swan Golf & Country Club, 1754 Old Kings Highway, on R. Established around 2008, on site of the former Katsbaan Golf Club (9-hole course) which operated until around 2001.
- Katsbaan Cemetery on R. Affiliated with the Katsbaan Church.
- Katsbaan Reformed Church, 1801 Old Kings Highway, on L (parsonage and fellowship hall on right). State Historic Marker: "Erected 1732, known as "De Steenkerk op de Kats Baan". Rebuilt 1867. In north wall are stones with names of builders." National Register. Featured on the 2011 Historic House Tour.
- Eavesport Road Corridor. The availability of port and docking areas on the shoreline of the Hudson River influenced the development of roads inland, in order to access natural resources and provide shipping for agricultural products. Only after the first wave of industrialization, with the development of mass-scale transportation facilities, did many of the older smaller docks and ports fall into decline and disuse. Today, the dockage at Eavesport is part of Bristol Beach State Park and supports low-intensity recreational access to the

Sacks Lodge and Lauren Tice roads, along with Emmerick Road, define the historic "Eavesport Road" corridor between the River, Katsbaan and a through-going road at the base of the Hoogeberg Escarpment that, in turn, connected between Quarryville and High (or Great) Falls. Just west of Old Kings Highway, Sacks Lodge Road crosses the Beaver Kill on an old stone arch culvert that has been deemed "eligible" for listing on the National Register.

- Total Tennis Katsbaan Lodge, 1811 Old Kings Highway, on L. Resort facility in operation since 1996; formerly Sack's Lodge.
- State Historic Marker on L: "Kaatsbaan (Dutch for 'tennis court') Site of Indian football field in bend of river. Home of William Tietsoort, 1690-1713."
- 1905 Old Kings Highway, frame dwelling on L, north of Dave Elliott Road, near the old barbeque pit 27. site. House dates from 1870. Site has additional frontage on Dave Elliot Road. Private residence.
- 1908 Old Kings Highway, "Maple Lawn Farm / Dederick Farm". On right hand side, frame dwelling with Italianate details, c.1865. Active small farm and private residence.
- Smith tract, on L: One of the largest remaining parcels in the area that has been held in the same family for generations. About 4/10 of a mile north of the Saxton fire station, the woodlands open up to reveal a vista of rolling fields with the east face of the Catskills - sometimes referred to as the "Wall of Manitou" and the "Mural Front"- as a dramatic backdrop.
- Dillonhurst/Lasher Farm, on L, visible across the Smith fields. Stone house, c.1790; large frame barn. Featured on the 2009 Historic House Tour. National Register Eligible. Private residence.
- Asbury, Farming community in the northerly area of the Town, at junction of the Kings Road and the road connecting between docks on the Hudson River with High (or Great) Falls of the Kaaters Kill and the Kaaterskill Clove. Located close to the crossroads were a store, a school, as well as a Methodist Church and cemetery. A short distance northwest were mills located along the Kaaters Kill. The hamlet is named in honor of the first American Bishop of the Methodist Church, Francis Asbury. Asbury's jurisdiction spanned from present-day New York State south to the Carolinas. Asbury Park and the hamlet of Asbury in New Jersey are also named in his honor.

Some older maps and documents identify the hamlet of Asbury as "Trumpbourville", in recognition of the Trumpbour family descendants, many of whom still live in this area.

- Trumpbour Farmstead, 2072 Old Kings Highway, on R. Stone house, other dwellings, farm buildings and fields on the National Register of Historic Places (listed in 1995). Featured on the 2011 Historic House Tour. Private property.
- 33. Sebring House / Holland Hall. TOUR STOP 1. See detailed description in this booklet.
- 34. 2083 Old Kings Highway, on L, just north of Sebring. Frame dwelling, off-white exterior, c. 1820.
- 35. 2096 Old Kings Highway on R, frame house with farm buildings.

10. Old Kings Highway is first referenced in the early Dutch Settlement grant of 1669 as the 'footpath to Albany" and in 1677 as "the road from Katskill". Sometime between these dates it progressed from an Indian path to a wagon road. At the time, all land communication and commerce between Albany to the north and Philadelphia to the south passed on this highway. In 1687, when the northerly bounds of the Kingston Commons was defined as the southerly bounds of Albany County, this roadway would afford the population of the tightly settled areas of the Kingston Commons access to common fields, pastures and woodlots, for both subsistence and trade.

It became known as The Kings Highway by Act of the Colonial Assembly in 1703, inclusive of the road from Kingston southwestward that was known as the "Old Mine Road".

- 11. NY State Route 32 follows one section of the Kings Highway through Cedar Grove, improved as the "Saugerties Palenville" highway and completed in 1926. This was one of the first concrete-surfaced roads in the Town. The current alignment of Route 32 is mainly the result of a mid-1950's reconstruction project, spurred in part by the pending completion of the Thruway at that time.
- 12. 3043 Route 32, on L. "Fiero House" (partially visible through the trees), a white frame house and an example of vernacular architecture, constructed around 1830. The house is situated close to an old section of the King's Highway that was discontinued by the state in 1957. The old roadbed's alignment is mirrored by the location of the overhead utility lines.
- 13. Katsbaan and Kaufman's Corners. The Katsbaan area of Town, defined along the bounds of the old School District 6, encompasses a community that first centered itself around the local Reformed Church, and later saw a new identity as a busy crossroads between the Old Kings Highway and the Malden Turnpike. This intersection was sometimes known as Kaufman's (or Kaufmann's) Corners. The state highway construction in the 1920's brought about the first bypass of Kaufman's Corners to the southwest of the intersection (now a town-maintained road accessing the contractor's yard).
- 14. Cornelius Persen House and Store Site, 1606 Old Kings Highway, on R, just north of Route 32. State Historic Marker: "Persen Store Site. 25 yards east stood store of Cornelius Persen, also fur trade headquarters of John Jacob Astor. In 1867 used as place of worship." Stone house constructed in 1789. Private residence. National Register Eligible.
- 15. Malden Turnpike. Operated in the late 19th century by Asa Bigelow to facilitate traffic between the Hudson at Malden and the "Mountain" towns of Hunter and Tannersville in Greene County. Section between Katsbaan and Malden first improved as a county road in 1933, thirty years after the turnpike ceased operations.
- 16. First Town Meeting site; 454 Malden Turnpike, on R. State Historic Marker (obscured by vegetation): "Tavern Site. Kept by Christian Fiero. Public meeting place during Revolution. First Town Meeting held here April 16, 1811." The current apartment building on this site dates to 1930.

House at NW quadrant of intersection, 458 Malden Turnpike, dates to 1880 (note the hitching post in front). Further west, Steyer's garage was once an Esso station serving traffic on the state road.

- 17. Old Kings Highway- County Improvements. The 20th century-era improvement of this portion of the Kings' road was one of the first projects supported by the County under the old "320-a" County Aid Road system in 1921, as County (Aid) Road 31. The construction work and maintenance were under to so-called "Town Unit" system, but the county assumed jurisdiction beginning in 1930 as a result of changes to the state's highway laws. Much of this section of the Kings Highway corridor retains the character of alignment and geometry from 80-90 years ago, and it serves commuter and residential traffic flows and is often used by bicyclists.
- 18. "Royal Oaks", 1655 Old Kings Highway, on L. Former Katsbaan Reformed Church parsonage; stone building, just over half mile south of the church. Private residence. National Register Eligible.
- 19. Former Katsbaan District School, 1662 Old Kings Highway, on R. Brick, c.1860, with block addition and wood cupola. National Register Eligible. Private property.
- 1671 Old Kings Highway, frame dwelling on L. Example of "bungalow style" commonly built in the early 20th century. Private residence.

Along the way.....

- 1. Saugerties High School. Constructed in 1958, as a result of the consolidation of the many one-room schoolhouse districts in the Town into a central school system.
- Town of Saugerties. Created by an act of the New York State Legislature in 1811, along
 with the Town of Esopus, from the Town of Kingston. Additional territory from Kingston was
 added to the Town in 1824. The Town encompasses the northernmost tier of the Kingston
 Commons "Northwest Class" of lots.
- 3. Village of Saugerties. Incorporated in 1831 as the Village of Ulster, with the name changed to Saugerties in 1855. The Village encompasses an area surrounding the "bend" and falls of the Esopus Creek, out to its confluence with the Hudson River. This area of the Esopus Creek attracted Dutch settlers following the Andros Treaty of 1667, in which the Native Americans ceded title to their lands.

John Wood and Peter Winne developed saw mills at the Esopus Bend prior to 1700, and John Person and his son-in-law Myndart Myndartse established mills at the bend and below the present day dam before 1750. The future village was also the terminus of the access road that connected to Robert Livingston's sawmills in present-day Woodstock.

- 4. Washington Avenue Extension first appears on Beers' 1875 map; connecting the Village with Kraut Road. Many houses opposite the High School were developed between the 1890 and 1930 period. Building ages trend younger proceeding northerly towards Kraut Road. The frame house at 199 Mike Kraut Road, at the north end of Washington Avenue Extension, dates to 1900.
- Mike Kraut Road appears as early as 1853 on the Tillson & Brink county map, connecting Malden with the Canoe Hill.
- 6. West Shore Railroad. Completed in 1883 in direct competition to the New York Central mainline located on the east shore of the Hudson, but soon absorbed into NYC system (1885). Passenger service was provided until 1959. Ownership and organizational changes placed the line under Penn-Central (1969) and Conrail (1976). Acquired by CSX in 2000.
- 7. Central Hudson "H" Line. Single-circuit 69,000 volt electric transmission line built in 1928 (double circuit configuration). Currently proposed for replacement, as infrastructure does age.
- 8. Peoples Road. A 19th century road first appearing on the 1853 Tillson & Brink map. The name is suggestive of a 19th century "shunpike". The 1875 Beers map of the Town labels "Peoples Road" just to the west as it traverses the slopes of Mount Airy. This would have allowed for a traveler or farmer to move between the Village of Saugerties and West Saugerties (or Quarryville) on a route that avoided the tollgates on either the Malden or Saugerties-Woodstock Turnpikes. Since there was no toll charged on this alternate route, it was referred to as the "peoples" road.
- 9. Free Thruway. Peoples Road crosses over one of the earliest sections of Thruway built in the state, with construction starting in 1948. Opened in 1951, this part of the Thruway was operated toll-free between Lake Katrine and the Town of Catskill until the mid-1950's. The pre-Thruway alignment of Peoples Road runs to the north side of the overpass.

The concept of a high-speed controlled access highway began with state highway officials in the late 1930's, and by 1942 the Thruway was established and defined in NY State Highway Law. Construction work accelerated in the early 1950's following the enactment of the Public Authority Law amendments to create the State Thruway Authority, and much of the highway was completed and open to traffic by 1955.