

Guidebook: Colonial

UPPER HUDSON

Luykas Van Alen House
Columbia County Historical Society
5 Albany Ave P.O. Box 311
Kinderhook, NY 12106

Hours: Open Memorial Day – Labor Day on Thursdays through Sunday from 10AM to 4PM

Phone: (518) 758-9265

Historical Description:

As the Dutch settled the Hudson River Valley, their culture influenced the homes and communities of the region. The Dutch architecture and preserved domestic settings allow us to look back into this period of Hudson River Valley history.

The Site:

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1968, the Luykas Van Alen House is a restored house museum representing 18th-century rural Dutch farm life. With its parapet gables, Dutch doors, and entrance stoops, it stands as a testament to traditional Dutch architecture in the Hudson River Valley.

The Luykas Van Alen House interior is typical of the domestic settings in which many Hudson Valley Dutch farmers and merchants lived and worked. Large fireplaces dominate each room, with iron cooking utensils and period furnishings further helping to illustrate this historical moment..

Directions:

Take the NYS Thruway to Exit 21A and enter the Boston/MA Turnpike to exit B1. Take I-90 West until exit 12. Turn left on US 9 south. Turn right on Albany Ave.

UPPER HUDSON

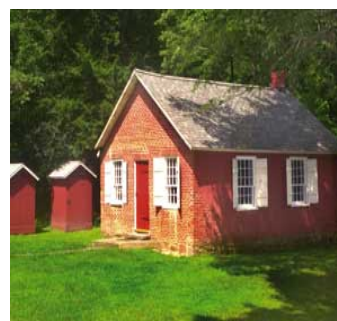
Riders Mills Schoolhouse

<http://www.chathamnewyork.us/Rider%20Mills/RidersMillsSite/index.html>

P.O. Box 1
Malden Bridge, NY 12115

Hours: No specific hours

Phone: (518) 794 7146



Riders Mills Schoolhouse

Historical Description:

The Riders Mill Schoolhouse was built in the late 1700s and is one of the oldest in the nation. It was also one of America's last single-room schoolhouses in operation (in use until the late 1950s). The schoolhouse is listed on both the State and National Registry of Historic Sites.

The Site:

The site is open to the public, but at this time does not offer any exhibits. The site hosts an annual open air art show every September as well as other occasional events. Please check its website to find the most up to date information on the schoolhouse's events.

Directions:

Riders Mills is located at the intersection of Riders Mills Road and Drowne Road in Malden Bridge, NY. The schoolhouse is .8 mile from the intersection of Riders Mills Road and Route 66 and 1.8 miles from the intersection of Riders Mills Road and County Route 13.

UPPER HUDSON

Shaker Museum and Library

<http://www.shakermuseumandlibrary.org/index.html>

99 SHAKER MUSEUM ROAD
OLD CHATHAM, NY 12136

Hours: The Museum is open to the public on a seasonal basis with popular special events and educational programming.

The Library is open year-round by appointment.

Research in the object collection is available year-round by appointment.

Phone: (518) 794-9100

Historical Description:

Escaping religious persecution in England, Ann Lee moved to America in 1774. Founded by Ann Lee, The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing was given the derisive name of the Shaker movement by people who saw the Shakers twist and tremble to rid themselves of sins and evil. Strongly believing in celibacy, communal life and confession of sin, the Shakers separated themselves from society. Mother Ann Lee was the central figure in the movement and believed to be the second coming of Christ's spirit. Depending completely on conversion, the Shaker movement grew to an estimated 4,000 – 5,000 people in the mid-19th century.

The Site:

The Shaker Museum offers its visitors a look into Shaker life and culture. The museum features Shaker furniture, clothing, machinery, tools and art. The on-site library offers books and historic pictures of the Shakers. A variety of educational programs on the Shaker experience are offered from the spring through the fall

Directions:

From New York City:

Taconic Parkway north to Rt. 295 exit, follow signs to Rt. 295 east, left at Albany Turnpike Road (at green Old Chatham 3 miles sign). In Old Chatham follow Rt. 13 one mile west to Shaker Museum Road.

From Boston:

Massachusetts Turnpike to B2 exit, follow signs to Rt. 295 east, left at Albany Turnpike Road (at green Old Chatham 2 miles sign). In Old Chatham follow Rt. 13 one mile west to Shaker Museum Road.

From Albany NY Thruway:

Interstate 90 to exit 11E, right on US 20, right on Rt. 66 south (at green bridge). Take a left at the stop sign then take an immediate right onto Shaker Museum Road.



Shaker Museum and Library

UPPER HUDSON

New Scotland Museum and the Historical Association

<http://www.townofnewsotland.com/agencies.asp?mm=2&sm=9&inc=historical>

Wyman Osterhout Community Center

Old Road, New Salem

Slingerlands, NY 12159

Hours: Sundays 2 - 4 PM year round
Group tours are available by appointment.

Phone: (518)765-4652 or 765-2191

Historical Description:

The exhibit chronologically details the history of the area, focusing on the Helderberg Mountains, Mohican Indians, and railroad innovations to the area. The Helderberg Mountains are the prominent feature of New Scotland. Their limestone cliffs hold fossils from the Devonian period (390 to 340 million years ago). They were named "Helderberg", which is Dutch for "Clear Mountain," because the formation can be seen from miles away. The Mohican Indians resided in what is now called the Hudson River valley for hundreds of years. They welcomed the Dutch and their trade goods. The Indians traded beaver pelts, desired by the Europeans for making their beaver hats, for these items. Trade continued for decades. In 1629 the Dutch started to settle what is now Albany and Rensselaer Counties primarily to protect their trade with the Indians.

In 1864 two railroads were built through the Town of New Scotland, headed west from the Hudson River, both trying to find a way around the Helderbergs. The Albany and Susquehanna line and the New York, West Shore and Buffalo railroads crossed one another in a farm field. Subsequently a village grew up around the crossroad and in 1899 the Village of Voorheesville (named for a railroad attorney) was incorporated.

The Site:

The exhibits represent various aspects of the history of the Town of New Scotland. The opening geology exhibit shows this area before the Atlantic Ocean was fully explored and documented by explorers. Other displays look forward in time, to the 1800s and early 1900s.

Directions:

From Albany

1: Start out going NORTHWEST on WASHINGTON AVE toward N HAWK ST. 0.4 miles

2: Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto NY-5 N / CENTRAL AVE. 0.1 miles

3: Turn RIGHT onto HENRY JOHNSON BLVD. 0.4 miles

4: Take US-9 N. 0.3 miles

5: Merge onto I-90 W toward BUFFALO (Portions toll). 3.3 miles

6: Take the RT-85 exit- EXIT 4- toward SLINGERLANDS / VOORHEESVILLE. 0.4 miles

7: Merge onto NY-85 S. 11.0 miles

8: Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto OLD NEW SALEM RD. <0.1 miles

9: End at Wyman Osterhout Community Ctr 7 Old New Salem Rd, Voorheesville, NY 12186, US

UPPER HUDSON

Shaker Heritage Society

<http://www.crisny.org/not-for-profit/shakerwv/visitor.htm>

Albany Shaker Road

Albany, NY 12211

Hours: February to October - Tuesday thru Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November & December - Monday thru Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Guided tours on Saturdays June thru October at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., when available.

Admission: Free, Donations gratefully accepted.

Guided Tours: \$3.00 per person

Children Under 12: Free

Notes: Email: shakerwv@crisny.org.

Phone: (518) 456-7890

Historical Description:

In 1774, a small group of English Shakers led by Mother Ann Lee arrived in New York City. Two years later, they settled in Albany County in an area known (by local Indians) as Niskayuna, called Watervliet by the descendants of the Dutch settlers. The group was known as the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing. They were commonly referred to as "Shakers," a name the group itself also used.

A Christian religious sect, the Shakers believed in confession of sins, celibacy, separation from the outside world, and common ownership of property as the principal tenets of their faith. They also believed in the equality of the sexes, absence of racial discrimination, the devotion to industry, perfection and pacifism.

The Site:

The Shaker's first building, a log cabin built in the winter of 1775-76, was approximately 500 yards north of the Church Family site, which is now the grounds of the Ann Lee Home. There Ann Lee and her small band of followers began to change this swampy land into a farm which eventually grew into four communities or "families": the Church, North, West, and South Families.

The Shaker community here numbered about 350 in the middle of the 19th century, but only a few remained when the last Shaker elder of this community died in 1938 and the remaining Shakers moved to Hancock and Mount Lebanon.

The Society is renovating the 1848 Shaker Meeting House, to serve as headquarters for its educational activities. It offers special group tours of the building and historic district, guided tours on Saturdays, craft courses, workshops, lectures and numerous annual events throughout the year.

Directions:

From I-87- Adirondack Northway

- TAKE EXIT 4 OFF NORTHWAY: Rte 155 and Albany International Airport Exit
- Follow signs for 155 (West) and Albany International Airport
- Remain LEFT on rte 155 (Delessandro Blvd.) airport will be on your right as you pass by. Do not enter the airport!
- Take a LEFT at second light in airport district onto rte 163/Heritage Lane
- Turn LEFT at Shaker Heritage Museum sign beyond the Shaker Barn and fence

UPPER HUDSON

The New Netherland Museum & Half Moon Visitor's Center

<http://www.newnetherland.com/>

P.O. Box 10609

Albany, NY 12201-5609

Hours: Call for current information.

Notes: E-mail: info@newnetherland.org

Phone: (518) 443-1609 or (518) 443-1609



The Half Moon

Historical Description:

The original Half Moon (Halve Maen) was commissioned on March 25, 1609, for the Dutch East India Company. Her captain, Henry Hudson, was already a famous explorer of Arctic waters when in 1608 he was hired by the Dutch East India Company to find a northeast, all-water route to Asia. What began as a search for a Northeast Passage became a transatlantic crossing to look for a Northwest Passage to the rich spice trade of China. After reaching the Maine coast the Half Moon sailed southward as far as the present day North Carolina Outer Banks. Then, turning northward, Hudson explored the Delaware Bay before arriving at the mouth of the Hudson River. Hudson sailed upriver to present-day Albany before returning down river, and claiming the region for the Dutch.

The Site:

The New Netherland Museum is a NEH- supported non-profit, educational society that operates and maintains a full scale replica of the Half Moon. The Half Moon itself is a full scale replica of the original Dutch ship with its interior designed as a interactive museum. Its mission is to educate the public about 17th century ways of life in New Netherland. The original boat was sailed by Henry Hudson for the Dutch East India Company in 1609 and was the first European boat to document and explore the Hudson River all the way up to the Erie Canal.

Directions:

- 1: Start out going NORTHEAST on EAGLE ST toward CORNING PL. 0.1 miles
- 2: Turn RIGHT onto COLUMBIA ST. 0.1 miles
- 3: Turn LEFT onto NY-32 / N PEARL ST. <0.1 miles
- 4: Take the I-787 ramp toward NEW YORK THRUWAY / TROY / US-9 S / Rensselaer. 0.1 miles
- 5: Merge onto I-787 N via the ramp on the LEFT toward TROY. 0.8 miles
- 6: Merge onto I-90 W via EXIT 5 toward BUFFALO (Portions toll). 3.3 miles
- 7: Take the EVERETT RD exit- EXIT 5. 0.1 miles
- 8: Turn RIGHT onto CR-155 / EVERETT RD EXT. 0.3 miles
- 9: Turn RIGHT onto SAND CREEK RD. 0.1 miles
- 10: Turn LEFT onto VAN RENSSELAER RD. <0.1 miles
- 11: VAN RENSSELAER RD becomes BOOTH LN. 0.1 miles
- 12: Turn LEFT onto W ALBANY DR. <0.1 miles
- 13: End at Albany, NY 12205-1416, US

MID HUDSON

Madam Brett Homestead

<http://www.geocities.com/melzingah/id4.htm>

50 Van Nydeck Avenue
Beacon, NY 12508

Hours: Group or private tours by appointment

Phone: (845) 831-6533 or (845) 896-6897

Historical Description:

The original portion of the Madam Brett Homestead was built in about 1709 by Catheryna and Roger Brett, who had settled on land inherited from father, Francis Rombout, one of the three patentees of southern Dutchess County. Widowed at a young age, Madam Brett remained in the "wilderness" to raise three young sons. She became a successful businesswoman, operating a mill and forming a trading cooperative for local settlers. During the American Revolution, George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, and the Baron von Steuben visited the homestead.

The Site:

The oldest building in Dutchess County, the homestead was occupied by seven successive generations of Madam Brett's descendants before it was saved from demolition and purchased by the Melzingah Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution in 1954, which maintains the house and garden. Notable features of the house include handmade scalloped shingles, sloped dormers and a native stone foundation. Also noteworthy are the wide- floors, hand-hewn beams and the kitchen fireplace. Original furnishings include a large China-Trade Porcelain collection and 18th and 19th century furniture.

Directions:

Exit 11 off of Interstate 84, south on Route 9D to first light. Go left on to Verplanck Avenue, and continue on to second traffic light. Turn right on to Fishkill Avenue, and continue through the next light (at Main Street) to Van Nydeck Avenue (first street on left). If traveling from the south, take Route 9D North into Beacon, and turn right on to Teller Avenue. VanNydeck Avenue will be the 4th street on the right.

Research Patron: Denise Van Buren

MID HUDSON

Huguenot Street
Huguenot Historical Society
18 Broadhead Avenue
New Paltz, NY 12561

Hours: May through October

Notes: E-mail: info@huguenotstreet.org

Phone: 845-255-1660

Historical Description:

New Paltz, founded in 1678 after the purchase of land from the Esopus Indians, became the home of French Protestants who left France to escape political and religious persecution. Their homes on Huguenot Street along the Walkill River date back to before 1720. A National Historic Landmark, Huguenot Street is the site of six homes of colonial and early National period stone houses.

The Site:

The street holds six homes which are each furnished and interpreted differently. Three of the homes appear as they were in the 18th century. The Deyo House is presented as an early colonial home, unlike the Freer House which reflects the Colonial Revival tastes of the 1940s. An early 19th century Federal style home, although first built in 1799, is featured as well. The site also contains the Dubois Fort built in 1705 and a reconstructed French church with its adjacent burial ground. Additionally a library and picnic facilities are located on –site.

Directions:

From New York City and points South:

New York State Thruway (I-87) north to Exit 18, turn left onto Route 299. Travel west on Route 299, at the fourth traffic light turn right onto Rt. 32 North. Follow Rt. 32 through the next traffic light, go one block and make a left onto Broadhead Avenue

From Albany and points North:

New York State Thruway (I-87) south to Exit 18 to Route 299 or Route 9W south to Route 299 west.

Travel west on Route 299, at the fifth traffic light turn right onto Rt. 32 North, after the traffic light turn left onto Broadhead Avenue

From the West:

Route 44/55 to Route 299 east. After the bridge, go to traffic light and turn left onto Rt. 32 North. Follow Rt. 32 North through the traffic light, go one block and turn left onto Broadhead Avenue.

or

Route 84 to the New York State Thruway (I-87) North. Get off the Thruway at exit 18 and turn left onto Route 299. Travel west on Route 299, at the fourth traffic light turn right onto Rt. 32 North. Follow Rt. 32 through the next traffic light, on one block and turn left onto Broadhead Avenue.

From the East:

Route 84 west to the New York State Thruway (I-87) north to Exit 18, turn left onto Route 299. Travel west on Route 299, at the fourth traffic light turn right onto Rt. 32 North. Follow Rt. 32 North through the next traffic light, go one block and turn left onto Broadhead Avenue.

MID HUDSON

Bevier House

<http://www.bevierhousemuseum.org/>

Route 209

Marbletown, NY 12419

Hours: The museum is open: June through September -- Thursday through Sunday 1:00 PM -- 5:00 PM

Admission: Members Free \$4.00 for adults \$3.00 for seniors \$2.00 for children Library is open by appointment.

Phone: (845) 338-5614



Bevier House

Historical Description:

Built in the 1680s as a one-room settler's dwelling, the Bevier House today reflects the history of the Hudson Valley and its inhabitants. Constructed on land purchased from the Esopus Indians by A. P. Van Leuvan, the house was sold in 1715 to the Louis Bevier family of the New Paltz Patent.

The house remained in the Bevier family for 223 years, until 1938. During this period, it was enlarged with a second floor, porches, a widow's walk and interior improvements, converting it to the stately structure that we enjoy today.

The Site:

As you enter the house, you can feel the warmth of the kitchen which was the main living area in Colonial times. A unique brass clockjack, figured andirons and indigenous 18th century Hudson Valley Dutch furnishings are to be found here.

In the adjoining scullery, there is a large collection of early tools used to harvest crops, prepare food and for construction. The inventiveness of the early settlers is evident in every piece.

Housed on the second floor is an extensive Civil War collection. Arms, uniforms, field drums photographs and documents remind visitors of the Civil War's impact on Ulster County residents.

Late 19th century Victorian furnishing fill the parlors of the main floor. They evoke the style and elegance of the Victorian age.

Browsing through the house will reveal interesting and unusual items of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. You will become acquainted with its fine collections of textiles, paintings, early china, pottery and furniture. The Bevier House Museum offers a unique glimpse into the life of the Hudson Valley from Colonial times into the 20th century.

Directions:

From New York State Thruway (I-87) take Exit 19 (Kingston). Bear right at traffic circle onto Route 28 West (toward Pine Hill). Go through the traffic light. Follow signs to Route 209 South. Follow Route 209 South to Bevier House (approximately 6 miles) on the right.

LOWER HUDSON

Town of Yorktown Museum

<http://www.yorktownmuseum.org/>

1974 Commerce Street
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Hours: Tuesday & Thursday - 11 AM to 4 PM Sunday - 1 PM to 4 PM or by appointment year-round.

Phone: (914) 962-2970



Yorktown Museum

Historical Description:

The Yorktown Museum was founded in 1966. Its first location was in two rooms of the Davenport House. Then, in 1970, the Museum was moved into the Fowler House. After a series of relocations, the museum settled in 1976 on its present location. The address is currently known as: The Yorktown Community Cultural Center (YCCC).

The Site:

The museum contains a variety of exhibits ranging from 18th century colonial furniture to miniatures of railroads and mansions. There is also a research room available to the public who are interested in local history. There are collections of documents, maps and photographs pertaining to the history of Yorktown.

Directions:

Heading SOUTH

Take the Taconic State Parkway to Route 202/35. Turn left (east on Route 202) and continue to intersection with Route 118 ("the triangle"). Proceed straight across. The YCCC building will be immediately on the left.

