

Contact the Hudson River Navigator:

Vincent (Vinny) Tamagna
Hudson River Valley Institute
Marist College FN 304
3399 North Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-1387

ph: 845-575-3470
fax: 845-575-3176
mobile: 914-714-9533
vinny.navigator@gmail.com
hrvi@marist.edu

The West Point Foundry and Cold Spring: a Heritage Campus

The Hudson River Navigator, local, state, and national elected officials, and land preservation advocates gathered at the West Point Foundry Archaeological Site and Preserve on July 8, 2010, to announce its "Nationally Significant" designation and their ongoing dedication to developing a Heritage Campus on the nearly 100-acre site in Cold Spring, NY.

Cold Spring is located on the Hudson River fifty miles north of Manhattan, across from the United States Military Academy at West Point. The picturesque village is a destination for tourists as well as home to a growing community of professionals that commute to New York or have moved their business north. The West Point Foundry is located immediately south of the village center, accessible by car, pedestrian, and even canoe or kayak traffic.

The [West Point Foundry Archeological Site](#) includes the 87-acre preserve, with the remains of one of America's largest 19th-century ironworks, the original foundry school building, the 1833 Chapel of Our Lady, the home of foundry partner William Kemble, and Foundry Dock Park. [The Putnam County Historical Society](#) operates the Foundry School Museum to interpret local history. [The Chapel Restoration](#) maintains the Chapel of Our Lady as a venue for community and other programs. [Scenic Hudson](#) purchased, maintains, and is restoring portions of the old ironworks as well as developing interpretational materials and trails throughout the property.

In addition to U.S. Rep. John Hall's announcement of the new designation, State Parks Deputy Commissioner J. Winthrop Aldrich announced that the West Point Foundry Preserve was awarded a \$600,000 grant from the State's Environmental Protection Fund. Matched with funds from a private donor, the grant will enable Scenic Hudson to construct public amenities such as a gateway kiosk, universally accessible trail and elevated viewing platform.

With the help of the Navigator, Scenic Hudson applied for and received a federal ["Preserve America Grant"](#) in 2008 which it is using to complete the design of site improvements that will make the foundry a dynamic education-heritage resource and a link to other Preserve America sites in Cold Spring and throughout the [Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area](#). Gateways, gathering areas, thematic trails and innovative interpretive elements will tell the stories of the foundry's contributions to the Industrial Revolution, its role in the Civil War (including an 1862 visit by President Lincoln) and the land's remarkable ecological renewal. The lead designer on the project is [Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects of New York City](#).

The tourism industry in the Hudson River Valley generates \$4.7-billion annually and employs 80,000 people. In Putnam County alone, tourism generates \$59 million in spending and sustains nearly 1,300 jobs. Parks also contribute to the region's iconic scenic beauty and excellent quality of life for its

residents. Recognizing the many important facets of preserving and interpreting our history, Hudson River Navigator and Putnam County Legislator Vincent Tamagna commented, "Steeped in our American history, these important historical sites now have been identified and designated as nationally significant by being placed on the National Register. For many years I have recognized that this collection of historical sites, located along one of the American Heritage Rivers -- the Hudson -- would become an integrated destination. They will not only serve to preserve our history so we can learn about our past, but we will also benefit from the economic impact they will bring to the Hudson River Valley."