PROGRESS VS. PRESERVATION
THESIS

The 19th century marked the movement from environmental preservation to emerging Industry. Modernization greatly altered culture as well as landscape in the Hudson River Valley, making residents less appreciative of their surroundings. Slabsides, one of John Burroughs’ tributes to nature, has preserved the essence of the environment in the Hudson River Valley.
SENSE OF PLACE

http://faculty.pittstates.edu/~knichols/arttours.html
TIMBER INDUSTRY

Industry negatively impacted the Hudson River Valley landscape.

- There were 5 main industries in this area during the 19th century:
  - Iron Processing Plants
  - Tanneries
  - Sawmills
  - Transportation
  - Other Industries

IRON PROCESSING PLANTS
(CHARCOAL)

• What does timber have to do with iron?

• Impact on surrounding scenery
  – Deforestation

• Examples of Iron Processing Plants

• Knickerbocker Reactions
“Tanning was the first extensive human disturbance in the mountain area”

- Impact of tanning on the Hudson River Valley landscape
  - Deforestation
  - Longest tannery open for 75 years
    - 7,560,000 trees were cut down

- End of traditional tanning industry
SAWMILLS

• Development of Sawmills in America

• What is the purpose of Sawmills

• Impact on Environment

TRANSPORTATION

- Completely dependent on wood
  - Railroad: 270,000 miles of railroad track in the US
  - Electric Lines
    - Railroad + Electric Lines = 120,000,000 ties annually
- Marine Transportation
  - Wooden Ships
  - Docks
  - Wharfs
OTHER INDUSTRIES

- Pulp and Paper Mills
- Acid Wood Plants
- Furniture Factories
- “Whole Tree” Industries
JOHN BURROUGHS AND PRESERVATION

- John Burroughs was raised with an appreciation of nature
- The development of the Industrial Revolution encouraged his devotion to the environment
- Emerging as a knickerbocker writer, Burroughs, had a passion for the Hudson River Valley landscape

www.thejournalnews.com/livinghere/putnam/features/puthist.html
SLABSIDES SANCTUARY

“A wooded inspiration and naturalist's haven”

• Significance of Slabsides

• Became a National Historic Landmark in 1968

• Still threatened by loggers today

http://research.amnh.org/burroughs/slabsides.html
CONCLUSION

Timber is an intricate part of society and industry in the Hudson River Valley; however, the extensive use has had damaging effects on the landscape. John Burroughs sought to preserve and educate others about the value and importance of nature. Slabsides serves as a place to escape the industrialized world and realize the beauty and necessity of the environment.

http://research.amnh.org/burroughs/slabsides.html
“Nature...is only real when you reach out and touch it with your hands”
Bibliography


