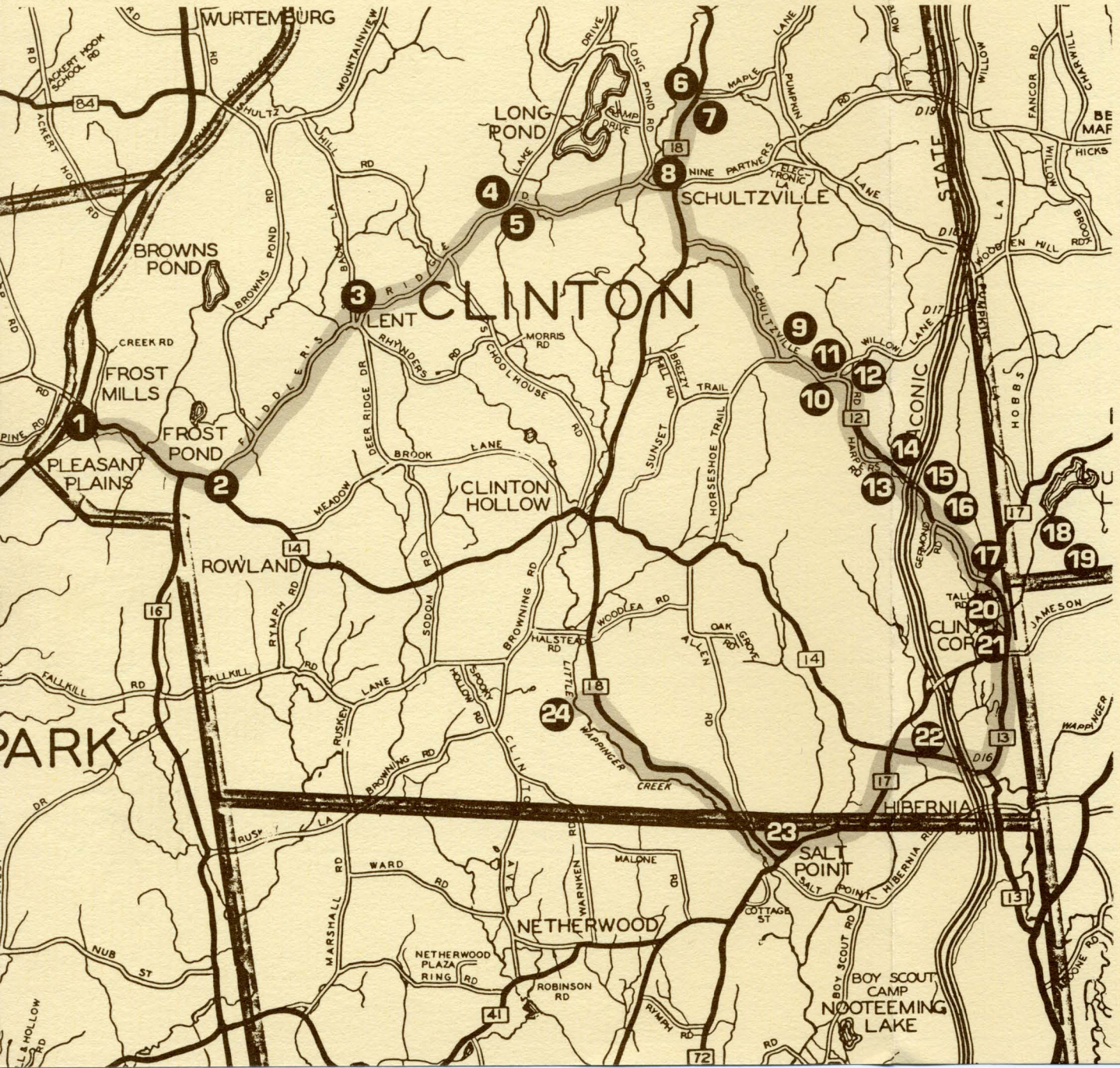


CLINTON HISTORICAL TOUR



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Do you have a few hours? Why not pack up your picnic basket, and go for a drive through some historic spots in the Town of Clinton? We'll end up at the Town Recreation Area ready for some food and refreshment. Or, if you are the athletic type, perhaps you'd like to make it a day's outing on your bike.

Let's start at the most westerly boundary of Clinton—Route 9G at Frost Mills. The first of Clinton's historic sites is the DeWitt House (#1 on the map). It is the first house on the right as you start on Hollow Road. Emma Link has lived here since 1914.

This unpretentious, Colonial home was built and enlarged by Captain John DeWitt, businessman and active patriot. He fought in the Revolutionary War, was a member of the State Assembly for several years and served as county sheriff for two terms. He was also one of the seven county delegates who voted on ratification of the Constitution in 1788. During these years, and until his death in 1808, he also operated a large grist mill across the road from his home. It was later known as Le Roy's Mill and then Frost Mill as the ownership changed.

It is a matter of conjecture as to which portion of the house was built in 1773, but both the main section facing Hollow Road and the southwestern portion to the rear were standing in 1802. The eastern addition is attributed to John LeRoy in 1855. Architecturally, it successfully combines a number of elements not often found on the same structure: gable roofed dormers, a single eyebrow window on the east wing and a substantial change in floor levels between that wing and the main section.

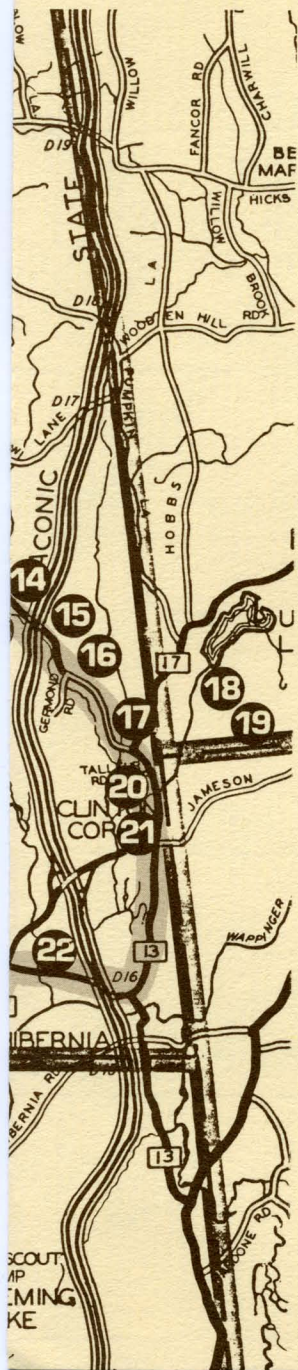
Just a mile up Hollow Road, we come to the settlement of Pleasant

Plains which developed around several nearby mills. At the fork in the road stands the Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church (#2) originally constructed in 1837. This beautiful Greek Revival style church was enlarged in 1859. It is particularly attractive because of its fine proportions, crisp Doric order and small windows appropriate to its scale. The left-hand wing is an old one-room schoolhouse, which was later used as a firehouse and now as Sunday school rooms.

Let's take the left side of the fork, Fiddlers Bridge Road so named, as the story goes, after an entertainer that lost his life by falling off the bridge on the way home from a long night fiddling, at a local Saturday night dance.

Across from where Schoolhouse Road comes out onto Fiddlers Bridge Road (about 2.5 miles from Pleasant Plains) we come to an example of a half-house (#3). The original owners built one room the first year, then as they prospered they added the next room. On close examination, you can see the joint next to the front door. The upstairs was added as more room was needed. This home is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Myers. The original parcel of 179 acres sold in 1793.

As we wind our way on Fiddlers Bridge Road for another 3.8 miles through rural countryside, we come to the picturesque McNair property (#4) on the left) and George Whites farm (#5 on our right)—two unspoiled farm properties that haven't changed much on the outside in the last 100 years. You may see a pair of oxen being used at Whites', reminiscent of another era. Both of these farms were once owned by the Lyons family, who donated the Town





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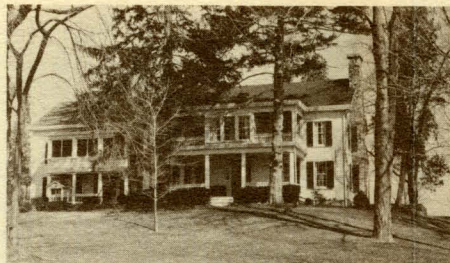
Hall to the town of Clinton.

Speaking of the Town Hall, it isn't very far from here (#6). Go over the bridge and turn left at the four corners in Schultsville. Heading north about .25 mile, we see on our left the building that is the hub of town government activity. It was donated to the town in 1924. Many groups of town residents use it during the year—at town meetings, planning, zoning, conservation committee meetings, Clinton Health Committee, Clinton Historical Society to mention a few. Most important, this is where everyone gathers on Election Day.

Recently an attractive wing was added by the Clinton Community Literary Association, Inc. The town library serves young and old with books, records, pictures and films through the Mid-Hudson Library System.

Going back down Center Road, we pass (#7) the Christian Church which was organized in 1864. At the four corners of Schultsville (so named for the Schultz family who owned a farm, store, sawmill and grist mill in the area), we see the Warren Lodge (#8) on the northeast corner. It is the oldest lodge in the state and one of the few remaining "moon lodges." The meeting night was originally set on Thursday nearest the full moon so that the members would have the light of the moon to go home by.

As we go south we'll take a right on Schultsville Road. This lovely country road is still a dirt road in some sections as it winds through the wooded countryside. About a mile down the road we'll come to (#9) a typical saltbox on the left owned by Howard Adriance. The land adjacent to it was purchased in 1783 by Jonathan Lyons. The Lyons'



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cemetery (#10) is on our right nestled under the hemlocks .7 mile from the saltbox.

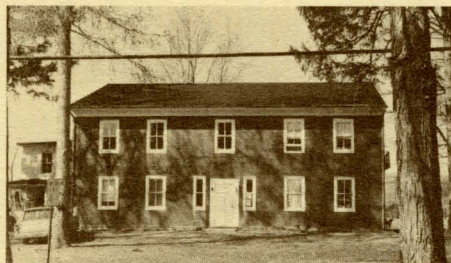
At the fork where Willow Lane comes in is another notable property (#11) that was owned by Isaac Ireland in 1700. He is said to have built a stone wall completely around the property. We will see several outstanding examples of early architecture along Schultsville Road.

Down on our left just past Willow Lane is the Froelich home (#12) with its eyebrow windows. Further down, where the old road goes off to the right and becomes the Feder's driveway, we see a similar farmhouse. The new road now leaves this farmstead to itself with marvelous views of Clinton's wooded hills and the Feders' wine grape vineyard (#13). It was built before 1800 by George Wing.

Just beyond the Feders, on the left, the Bell home (#14) is an example of Greek Revival built around 1800. The left side wing was added in more recent years. Just past the parkway, the Dwight Millers own a house (#15) that was built in 1868 near where a grist mill stood. Next, on the right (#16) is the Joseph Sinnott home that was built 10 years earlier at the site of the Abel Peters sawmill and farm. The sawmill was there prior to 1800.

The Allen Webster farm (#17) which has been in the family for six generations is .5 mile away. The main house was built in 1770 and was an underground railway station in slavery days. It was the home of Assemblyman James C. Allen.

On the sharp corner of Salt Point Turnpike is the Alger house (#18) which was built in 1858 and was the home of Dr. Gilbert Pearsall, a favorite town practitioner. Next to it is the Clinton



Corners Post Office (#19) which was a schoolhouse until 1961.

The Brick House (#20) at the corner of Talleur Lane was built in 1783 by Abel Peters, with brick which was dug in the field north of the house. It was a home for retired musicians at one time and now is an apartment house. Originally, it had three stories before fire destroyed the top floor in 1965.

Pause a moment at the parking lot, next on your right, behind the Creek Meeting House Historic Site (#21). In 1771, the Quakers living "over the creek" petitioned to hold their own meetings. It was difficult for the growing number of Friends living west of the Wappingers Creek to cross the creek, to attend meetings at the Nine Partners. The request was approved, and in 1777 the members began to construct a meeting house. It took five years for the Friends to complete this sturdy two-story, stone building, probably because of wartime interruptions. The building has been owned by the Upton Lake Grange since 1927. The exterior is basically unaltered and serves as an excellent reminder of Dutchess County's Quaker heritage.

Surrounding this lovely building is the Clinton Corners Friends Cemetery and a small park under the oaks. Sit for a moment on the bench surrounding one of these great trees. The Peters Plot to the west is the final resting place of the family of Abel Peters, who gave the land for the Creek Meeting House and the cemetery.

Across the road is the Clinton Corners Community Friends Church which was built in 1890 and added to in 1916.

On our way again to the center of



Clinton Corners where, we'll take the left fork of the road. The shrubs in the middle of the square are planted where the town's watering tub once stood. It was a large wooden tub, fed by a spring up on the hill to the east.

Going down Clinton Corners Road to Hollow Road, crossing the Parkway and proceeding west, we come to one of the oldest homes in Clinton—Mr. and Mrs. John Weiland's home (#22), which was built about 1780. The house has all the original floors and any repairs or restorations that the Weilands have done are in keeping with the methods used at that time. It was part of a 117-acre farm. The first recorded date of sale is 1808. The barn and house both lack roof trees in their construction, which places them as being built before 1800, according to Mr. Weiland.

Let's go west and then take a left on the Salt Point Turnpike. As you are coming into Salt Point you'll find the home of Clifford Buck on the corner of Clinton Hollow Road. He is a well-known historian of this area and he enjoys tracking down the recorded histories of properties.

We are winding our way over to the Clinton Recreation Area. The town purchased this land in recent years and used the gravel from it for the maintenance and construction of town roads. Now town residents enjoy relaxing and swimming here during the summer months. Girls and boys baseball and softball teams keep the fields busy and the little folk enjoy the playground equipment.

Bring out the picnic basket and enjoy the beauty of our land, the town of Clinton, and the heritage we possess.