PASSPORT

DUTCHESS COUNTY · DUTCHESS COUNTY · SEAL

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Welcome to Dutchess County!

Dutchess County was founded in 1683 as one of New York's twelve original counties and abounds with points of interest throughout its almost 800 square miles. Home to the Continental Army's Fishkill Supply Depot and the second state capital at Poughkeepsie during the Revolutionary War, Dutchess hosted New York's debates on the Federal Constitution in July 1788. In the nineteenth century, Dutchess County became a major railroad hub, which fueled thriving industrial and agricultural projects. The dairy industry in eastern Dutchess provided the Union Army's primary supply of condensed milk during the Civil War, while factories throughout Dutchess manufactured articles ranging from clothing to cars. Hyde Park native Franklin Delano Roosevelt's successful presidential bid in 1932 insured the county's political prominence and made it a test site for many of his New Deal projects. The Second World War introduced IBM to Dutchess, with the post-war boom in technology placing the county at the forefront of the computer age. This compelling history is etched into the county's landscape, as the following pages will detail, with wonderful experiences awaiting visitors in every part of the county.

Enjoy your visit to Dutchess County as you collect your official Passport stamps and learn the unique history of our vibrant communities!

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive

Using your
Dutchess County Passport

Welcome to the Dutchess County Passport! As a diverse community of hamlets, villages, towns, and cities, Dutchess County harbors many historical jewels that do not appear in most travel guides. The purpose of the Passport is to provide a brief overview of each municipality's history, offering residents a chance to explore their heritage and provide travelers with suggestions of places to visit. The following entries capture some of the many outstanding sites to see in each community, places that will in turn introduce you to other attractions in the area.

To make the best use of your Passport, be sure to visit the clerk's office at the municipal hall of each of the villages, towns, and cities. A list of these offices, with their addresses, hours of operation, and phone numbers is provided at the end of the Passport. In each clerk's office, you will be able to stamp your Passport and learn more about our communities. Collect all of the stamps and you will have truly seen the length and breadth of Dutchess County.

The Passport is the result of contributions from individuals throughout Dutchess County. These include the staff of Dutchess County Tourism, the Dutchess County Executive's Office, the Dutchess County Clerk's Office, and our network of municipal historians and historical societies. All have stepped forward to show off our county at its historical best.

For updates on our Passport program and further information on visitor opportunities, please visit the Dutchess County Tourism website at www.dutchesstourism.com/passport or call 845-463-4000.

Mary Kay Vrba
Executive Director
Dutchess County Tourism

William P. Tatum III
Dutchess County Historian

Town of Amenia

Amenia's six hamlets—Wassaic, Smithfield, Amenia, Amenia Union, South Amenia, and Leedsville—date back to the early eighteenth century. The historic Troutbeck Inn in Leedsville (currently closed) hosted Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, John Burroughs, Ernest Hemmingway, and Theodore Roosevelt. Proprietor Joel Spingarn was a leading figure in the NAACP from 1914 to his death in 1939. Off Route 22 in Wassaic are the beehive charcoal kilns of the nineteenth-century Gridley Ironworks, a reminder of the early industry that drew many settlers to the area. The nearby Borden Milk Factory supplied the Union Army with Eagle Brand Condensed Milk during the Civil War. Immediately adjacent is the Wassaic Project, a modern art museum that preserves twentieth century Maxon Mills, the 1850s Wassaic House Hotel, and the 1875 Luther Barn. Amenia hamlet, at the junction of Routes 44 and 22, features Victorian architecture, antique shops, local eateries, and access to the Harlem Valley Rail-Trail, which begins at the Wassaic Railroad Station. The 1858 Indian Rock School on Mygatt Road preserves the town's educational history.

Official Stamp

City of Beacon

The merger of the early villages of Matteawan and Fishkill Landing created the city of Beacon in 1913. Its deep roots in the 1683 Rombout Patent, the first of the county's land grants, are visible at the Madam Brett Homestead, the oldest house in Dutchess County. The daughter of patent holder Francis Rombout, and widowed at a young age, Catheryna Brett established herself as an independent businesswoman, wielding significant influence throughout the region for decades. During the nineteenth century, Beacon became the hat capital of New York State and boasted many other industries. Today's picturesque main street corridor includes buildings repurposed as shops, restaurants, and art galleries. Dia:Beacon, the world-renowned modern art museum, is situated in a former Nabisco box factory on the banks of the Hudson, not far from the dock for Pete Seeger's SLOOP CLEARWATER. Mount Beacon, site of a famous Revolutionary War signal station, offers superb views of the Hudson Valley. Restoration work on the historic Mount Beacon Incline Railway promises to open this scenic and historic location to all visitors.

Official Stamp

Town of Beekman

Named after Henry Beekman, one of the county's first land grantees, colonial settlements sprang up in the area by 1710. The town was officially incorporated in 1788. Like much of eastern Dutchess, the iron ore industry was a major economic driver during the eighteenth century. Remnants of iron furnaces can still be seen on Furnace Road. De Long's Hotel in the hamlet of Beekmanville, now a private residence, was an important stop on the stagecoach route from Connecticut before becoming a general store. Sylvan Lake, a natural ice age lake located off Sylvan Lake Road, was known to local Native Americans as Poughquag, which means "round body of water." This name was later transferred to one of the town's principal hamlets. The Beekman Town Hall, located on Beekman-Poughquag Road, was completed in 1941 as one of President Roosevelt's final depression-era projects. Further down the same road stands the old Beekman Mill and Clove Creek Farm, FDR Jr's one-time home that is now a private riding stable known as Old Dalton Farm.

Official Stamp

Town of Clinton

Originally named for Charlotte, consort of George III, Clinton was renamed in 1788 for Founding Father and New York Governor George Clinton. A rural community with over 350 historic structures and sites, the town offices are located in a complex of historic structures in the hamlet of Schultzville on Centre Road: the 1920s Town Hall along with a reconstructed one-room 1850s schoolhouse and the 1865 Masonic Hall, which were relocated to the site. The Christian Alliance Church building across the road was built in 1865. In the hamlet of Clinton Corners on Salt Point Turnpike, the 1777 Creek Meeting House and the 1881 Community Friends Church are two of three structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The third, the 1914 Benjamin Tousey House a short distance north at #2497-99, is a fine example of Craftsman architecture. Clinton Cheese & Provisions occupies the 1908 General Store in Clinton Corners. In the hamlet of Pleasant Plains at 2 Fiddler's Bridge Road, the Greek Revival style Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church dates to 1837.
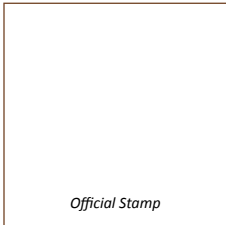
Official Stamp

Town of Dover

Incorporated in 1807, Dover's history extends back to the seventeenth century, when Pequot Sachem Sassacus purportedly took refuge in the Dover Stone Church in 1637. This natural cave with steep stone walls and a creek flowing through it is accessed via a trailhead on Highway 22 in Dover Plains hamlet. The circa 1815 Tabor-Wing House and the 1830s Second Baptist Church, both on the National Register of Historic Places, are located nearby. The 1750 Old Drovers Inn, also in Dover Plains, hosted early town meetings and catered to cattle drovers traveling from Vermont to New York City. The Beretta Shooting Grounds, specializing in sporting clays, occupy the old Dover Furnace grounds. Nearby Madava Farms produces acclaimed Crown Maple Syrup, building on the region's rich agricultural heritage. Once the terminus of the New York Central Railroad, Dover was also home to J.H. Ketcham, town supervisor, New York State Senator, Colonel of the 150th (Dutchess County) Regiment during the Civil War, and long-serving US Congressman. Dover became an official Appalachian Trail Community in 2013.

Official Stamp

Town of East Fishkill

Settled in the eighteenth century, East Fishkill separated from Fishkill on November 29, 1849. The East Fishkill Historical Society maintains a collection of properties off Palen Road that offer glimpses into local history. These include the 1750/1785 Dutch-style Brinckerhoff-Pudney-Palen farmhouse, the 1820 Upper Hopewell one-room Schoolhouse, the 1845 Van Wyck carriage barn, and an 1870 ice house. The Hopewell Reformed Church on Beekman Road in the hamlet of Hopewell Junction dates from 1833, preserving the history of the congregation that originated in 1757. The hamlet takes its name from the junction of the Newburgh, Dutchess, and Connecticut railroad line with the New York and New England line in 1881, revolutionizing transportation in Dutchess County by initiating service to Connecticut. Further south off Route 376 lays Hopewell Depot, the last surviving structure from a once thriving rail yard. The site anchors the southern terminus of the Dutchess County Rail Trail. The hamlet of Wiccopee off Route 52 in the eastern portion of the township includes many picturesque homes from the mid-nineteenth century.

Official Stamp

Town of Fishkill

Fishkill was formed on March 8, 1788, roughly a century after its initial settlement. The town occupies the core of the Rombout Patent, the first land grant given in Dutchess County shortly after its formation in 1683, to Francis Rombout and Gulian Verplanck. The Verplanck family home, Mount Gulian, still stands today off Route 9D after being rebuilt following a massive fire in the 1930s. During the Revolution it served as General von Steuben's headquarters and was the Society of the Cincinnati's birthplace. The Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center on Route 9D features the Verplanck Tenant House, a 1750s stone cottage recalling farming life in early Dutchess. The Van Wyck Homestead Museum, located immediately south of the Route 9/I-84 intersection, offers local history exhibits and is the last surviving element of the 100 acre Revolutionary War Fishkill Supply Depot. The depot supplied the entire Northern Department of the Continental Army and includes the largest known Revolutionary War military cemetery, whose unmarked remains lay at the corner of Route 9 and Van Wyck Lake Road.

Official Stamp

Village of Fishkill

The Village of Fishkill began as a small community of Dutch immigrants around 1714. Although not incorporated as a village until 1899, Fishkill was the social, religious, supply, health care and transportation center supporting the American military in the Revolutionary War. It became one of the largest colonial military encampments and hosted Alexander Hamilton. Its oldest churches were used as a prison (The Reformed Church at 1147 Main Street, opened in 1731) and a hospital (The Trinity Episcopal Church, established in 1768). The 4th New York Provincial Congress met in Fishkill in 1776, making it the temporary state capital. Dutchess County's first newspaper, *The Packet*, was published and printed in Fishkill by Samuel Louden, Fishkill's first postmaster. Fishkill offers several tree lined streets and beautifully kept houses, many dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. The first mayor, Henry Dubois Van Wyck, donated the current village hall in 1901, which began life as a theatre. The Declaration of Independence has subsequently been read on the hall steps on July 4th each year.

Official Stamp

Town of Hyde Park

Incorporated in 1821, the town drew its name from Dr. John Bard's eighteenth century estate, named in honor of Royal Governor Edward Hyde. Situated between Route 9 and Route 9G, the town's historic corridor is home to Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, including the Roosevelt homes of Springwood and Top Cottage, Eleanor Roosevelt's Valkill, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, linked by the Roosevelt Farm Lane Trail, and the Vanderbilt Estate. Staatsburgh State Historic Site, in the hamlet of Staatsburg, preserves the gilded age elegance of the Ogden Mills family mansion. The reconstructed St. James' Episcopal Church off Route 9 commemorates history reaching back to 1811, including a visit by the King and Queen of Great Britain. The picturesque town center on Route 9 features the 1941 Post Office (built to President Franklin Roosevelt's designs), the 1826 Dutch Reformed Church, and the Hyde Park Historical Society Museum in the Eagle Engine and Rescue building. The Culinary Institute of America sits on the town's southern boundary, immediately off Route 9.

Official Stamp

Town of LaGrange

The town of LaGrange, originally "Freedom" in 1821, was renamed after Lafayette's visit to the county in 1824 in honor of the Revolutionary War General's French estate. The circa 1860 District #3 One Room Schoolhouse on Freedom Road educated local children in grades K-8 and is one of the last in public hands in the county. Recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, it now houses the LaGrange Historical Society, with exhibits on local history. Remnants of the original patent wall dividing the Beekman and Rombout Patent parcels (from the late 1600s) border the schoolhouse property. Titusville Road was the site of a woolen mill (1828) that made uniforms for Union soldiers. The Titus brothers' Greek Revival style houses can be seen along the road that bears their name. The restored Sleight farmhouse (1798) on Overlook Road was the childhood home of Lt. David Sleight, killed in the last days of the Civil War, whose memorial is at the nearby LaGrange Rural Cemetery.
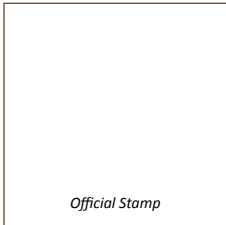
Official Stamp

Town of Milan

Established in 1818, Milan retains its historic agricultural atmosphere, featuring historic sites linked to its hamlets. Located off County Road 56 in the northwest corner of the town is the Fulton Homestead, maintained as a working farm since 1771. Jackson Corners, at the junction of County Roads 56 and 50, was an important eighteenth-century stagecoach stop and offers several early buildings. The 1824 LaFayette House hosted Post Road riders and can be seen today at the intersection of Route 199 and North and South Roads. Wilcox Memorial Park, a gift of Milan benefactor Irene Wilcox, is among the county's premier outdoor venues. Its 615 acres include a swimming lake with boat rentals, pavilions, and athletic fields. The 1804 Milan Christian Church, located off County Road 15, includes two cemeteries. The 1857 Milan Union Cemetery, the later of the two, features the grave of Jesse Langdon, the last of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders. Both cemeteries are open for public visitation.
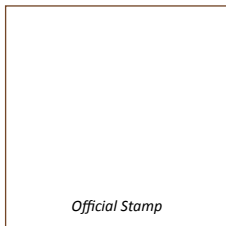
Official Stamp

Village of Millbrook

Founded around a station built for the Dutchess and Columbia Railroad in 1869, Millbrook took its name from the nearby estate of George Hunter Brown, a key railroad investor. M. Franklin Merritt (the namesake of Franklin and Merritt Avenues) laid out much of the village. The brick Bank of Millbrook building at the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Front Street served as the railroad's headquarters, while the wood building across the street was the village's first department store, built in 1870. The monumental wooden building located off Route 343 outside of the village began operation in 1893 as Halcyon Hall, a resort hotel, before becoming Bennett College for Women in 1908, which closed in 1978. Residents incorporated the village in 1895 and soon after received Thorne Memorial Building, now the village hall, as a gift from the Thorne Family. The Millbrook Horse Trials attracts Olympic-level, world-class competitors for the equestrian triathlon. Museum in the Streets is a walking tour through the village with laminated composite plaques telling pieces of the village's history.

Official Stamp

Village of Millerton

The village of Millerton, named "one of the coolest small towns in America" by Frommer's in 2007, has been a hub of activity since its establishment with the arrival of the railroad in 1851. The National Register Main Street Historic District features nineteenth- and early twentieth-century architecture housing an independent bookstore, art galleries, restaurants, coffee shops and antique stores. Near the old depot, walkers and bikers enjoy the eleven mile paved Harlem Valley Rail Trail, the one-room Irondale Schoolhouse and, on Saturdays, a farmer's market. Visitors can sample tea at renowned Harney & Sons Fine Teas tasting room or watch glass blowing at Gilmor Glass. Terni's Store, offering sporting gear, newspapers and cigars, has been a family business since 1917. Further up Main Street is The Moviehouse, showing first run films in the restored Benedict Hall with its distinctive clock tower built in 1903. Millerton is located in the rural, scenic northeast corner of Dutchess County, on Routes 22 & 44, situated next to Connecticut and the Berkshires with easy access to Metro North.

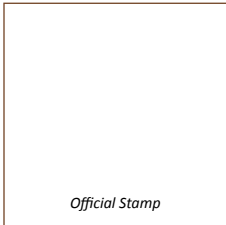*Official Stamp*

Town of North East

North East's origins stretch back to the eighteenth-century iron smelting industry, which inspired the name of the hamlet of Irondale. Located on Route 22, it features an early cemetery dating to 1818. Rudd Pond State Park, north of Millerton on County Route 62, offers 41 campsites and areas to swim, hike, fish, bike, and picnic. The nearby site of Maltby Iron Furnace is located on Shagroy Road, contiguous with Rudd Pond. The hamlet of Boston Corners, located off County Road 63 and shared with Columbia County, was a haven for prize fighting in the nineteenth century, including the famous Morrissey/Sullivan match. North East Center, off Route 44 south of Millerton, includes an early cemetery surrounded by several 18th century houses. Coleman Station Historic District, based around a mid-nineteenth century railroad stop, features three square miles of preserved farmland and structures dating back to the 1780s. It is accessible from the paved portion of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, which terminates in the Village of Millerton, as well as by car via County Road 58.

Official Stamp

Town of Pawling

Located in the disputed "Oblong" border region between New York and Connecticut, whose modern boundary was settled by the 1731 Treaty of Dover, Pawling was an early center of Quaker settlement in the 18th century. The second Oblong Meeting House, built in 1760 and situated on Meeting House Road, is still standing and open by appointment. In 1767, the congregation abolished slavery, taking the first steps on the road to universal emancipation. Late in the nineteenth century Pawling became a resort area. The Mizzentop Hotel offered world-class accommodations before being razed in 1936. Christ Church on Quaker Hill now occupies this site off Old Quaker Hill Road. Nearby stands the Akin Free Library, the gift of Quaker Albert J. Akin. Completed in 1908, this marvelous Victorian stone building houses the library, a local history museum, and the historical society collections. The NYC Sanitation Workers Union developed Whaley Lake, off Route 292, as Camp Sanita Hills for summer holidays. It featured old Pullman railway cars converted into cottages, some of which are still visible today.
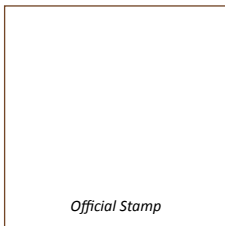
Official Stamp

Village of Pawling

The Village of Pawling, organized in 1893, is home to a variety of retail shops and the well-known McKinney & Doyle Restaurant. George Washington established his headquarters for two months in the John Kane House located on E. Main Street, which today serves as the museum of the Historical Society of Quaker Hill & Pawling. The Dutcher House Hotel, built by John B. Dutcher in 1884, dominates the center of the business district today, offering street-level boutique shopping. The 125-year-old Dutcher Golf Course on E. Main Street has been recognized as America's oldest 9-hole links course. Trinity-Pawling School on Route 22, a prestigious private boys' high school, was established in 1907. Cluett Hall, which features impressive brick Elizabethan-style architecture, still serves as the school's Old Main. The handsome Central Baptist Church was built near the Kane House in 1852 and later moved to its present location near the village center.

The Thomas E. Dewey Center at 63 Main Street, open by appointment, chronicles the life of the New York governor and presidential candidate.

Official Stamp

Town of Pine Plains

Located in the 1706 Little Nine Partners Patent, Pine Plains split off from North East in 1823. The initial settlers were largely German Palatines who moved into the area from the Livingston Estates to the east. Owned by the Little Nine Partners Historical Society, the Graham Brush House, located off North Main Street just above the Route 199/82 intersection, preserves the community's pre-revolutionary heritage. Constructed immediately before the Revolution, this log cabin represents the earliest surviving structure in the town. Immediately to the south lies the 1782 Stissing House, now a gourmet restaurant, which was originally a hotel on the post road that reputedly once served as a brothel. For many decades, Pine Plains was an important railway stop, connecting its dairy farms to New York City. One of these, Harvest Homestead Farm, served as a distillery and distribution point for infamous Prohibition bootlegger Dutch Schultz until raided by Federal authorities in 1932. Today the site is home to Dutch's Spirits distillery, which offers a literal taste of local history.
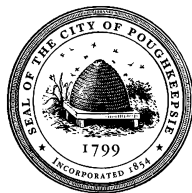
Official Stamp

Town of Pleasant Valley

Formed from the town of Clinton in 1821, Pleasant Valley's first settlers arrived in the area in 1735. The Pleasant Valley Grange Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. The Pleasant Valley Mill Site, originally a cotton mill and mechanical shop, burned in 1815 and again in 1994. The old mill store has been restored and serves as the office of the Town Historian. The Traver Road School was built in 1830 as a one room school but was replaced by a larger building in 1904, which has expanded over time into the Pleasant Valley School. The current building dates from 1933. The Firemen's Hall was home to the 1903 volunteer fire company as well as the Post Office in 1935, and is currently operating as a clothing store. The Roadhouse Tavern occupies the old corner hotel on Main Street, which once catered to visitors from New York City during the railroad's heyday. The hamlet of Salt Point, located off Highway 115, includes many historic homes and farms.

Official Stamp

City of Poughkeepsie

Settled in 1687, Poughkeepsie has been the county seat since 1713, was incorporated as a village in 1799, and became a city in 1854. The 1869 Bardavon Opera House on Market Street continues to host performances from stars of stage and cinema. The 1902 Dutchess County Courthouse occupies the same corner of Market and Main Street as the court house that hosted New York's US Constitution Ratification Convention in 1788. The iconic 1938 Poughkeepsie Post Office, constructed under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's personal direction, stands at the northern end of Market Street. Like the adjacent Poughkeepsie Journal Building, the Post Office is built in the Dutch colonial style and features historic murals. The Dutchess County Historical Society preserves the city's early history at the Glebe and Clinton Houses on Main Street. Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center occupies the intricate Victorian Vassar Brothers Institute and Theatre at 9 and 12 Vassar St. The 1887 railroad bridge is now the Walkway Over The Hudson, the longest elevated pedestrian bridge in the world, offering amazing views of the Hudson.

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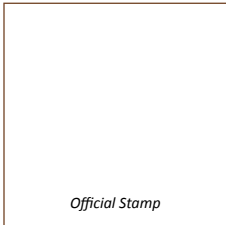
Town of Poughkeepsie

Established in 1788, the Town of Poughkeepsie is home to numerous National Historic Landmarks. Locust Grove, home of the famed painter and inventor of the telegraph Samuel F.B. Morse offers a museum and five miles of carriage roads bordering the Hudson River. The neighboring 1853 Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery is a model of the Victorian "park" approach to burial grounds. Vassar College, a private coeducational liberal arts college, founded by namesake Matthew Vassar in 1861, is the site of the Vassar College Observatory built for celebrated astronomer and first Vassar professor Maria Mitchell. The campus also hosts the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, founded in 1864 and designed by renowned architect Cesar Pelli. Its collections range from antiquity to the present, comprising over 19,000 works. Matthew Vassar's Springside estate, located off Academy Street, preserves a largely intact Andrew Jackson Downing landscape with walking trails. Marist College, originally established in 1905 as a novitiate for Marist Brothers, is a highly recognized liberal arts college whose grounds offer superb Hudson River views.

Official Stamp

Town of Red Hook

Supposedly named "Roed Hoeck" by Henry Hudson and his crew, the area's first inhabitants were Esopus and Sepasco Indians. Settled by an unusual mix of Dutch, English, French Huguenots, Irish and Germans, the town was incorporated in 1812. Today the town's 12,000 residents are concentrated in the villages of Red Hook and Tivoli and the hamlets of Annandale, Barrytown and Upper Red Hook. The area remains largely agricultural and was once home to a thriving violet cultivation industry that lasted through the 1920s. Bard College, one of the country's most respected liberal arts schools, was founded here in 1860. It is home to the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, which regularly hosts world-class performances. Montgomery Place, designed by Alexander Jackson Davis, with landscape inspired by A.J. Downing, is a National Historic Landmark. The Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, one of the world's only airfields dedicated to early aviation history, displays Pioneer, World War I and Lindbergh era aircraft and offers regular airshows during the summer and fall.

Official Stamp

Village of Red Hook

Incorporated in 1894, the Village of Red Hook hosts a mix of historic public and private buildings. Chief among them is the Elmendorph Inn. Built as a farmhouse around 1760, it soon became a popular stagecoach stop, inn and tavern, as well as the town's central meeting place. It contains a working fireplace and Dutch "beehive" oven. Owned by Historic Red Hook, the Inn houses the Rosemary Coons Archive Center for local history. The Inn also serves as an important community space, hosting tavern nights, an indoor farmer's market, and other programs throughout the year. The Red Hook Public Library, a unique octagonal structure of Rosendale cement, was built in 1864 as a residence and remodeled in 1935 to house the library. St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, its surrounding buildings and large cemetery, command the largest green space in the village. The 1894 Romanesque Revival-style building is on the National Register of Historic Places. The cemetery dates to 1796 and contains the graves of 12 Revolutionary War veterans.

Official Stamp

Town of Rhinebeck

Originally settled in 1688, the town of Rhinebeck is home to 437 National Historic Register sites. Thirty-five Palatine families, the county's first German immigrants, arrived here in 1712. Their heritage is preserved at the Palatine Farmstead north of the intersection of Routes 9 & 9G. Nearby is the Lutheran Old Stone Church and Quitman House, which houses the Museum of Rhinebeck History. Wilderstein, one of the great Hudson Valley estates, located on Morton Road, was the childhood home of Margaret (Daisy) Suckley, confidante of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The hamlet of Rhinecliff, situated on the Hudson River, features the 1908 Morton Memorial Library, built by U.S. Vice President Levi P. Morton in memory of his daughter. The Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, located at the border of Red Hook and Rhinebeck off Route 9, offers a thrilling look into the early days of flight. The Dutchess County Fair, which began in 1845 as an opportunity for farmers to show off livestock and crops, is held annually in Rhinebeck during the last full week in August.

Official Stamp

Village of Rhinebeck

The Village of Rhinebeck was incorporated in 1834. The General Richard Montgomery and Janet Livingston House on Livingston Street is preserved by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Montgomery was the first American General to die during the war, while leading an attack on Quebec City in December 1775. His home now offers exhibits on Rhinebeck's long history, including his wife's wedding shoe, discovered in a wall during renovation work. The 1939 Post Office, located adjacent to the Beekman Arms was designed to replicate the home of the patentee, Hendrick Kip. Kip's home was completed in 1700 near Rhinecliff and was destroyed by fire in 1910. The Post Office lobby features colorful murals by Olin Dows depicting local history. The Beekman Arms, built in 1766, is the oldest continuously-operated inn in America, offering fine dining and accommodations. The inn has maintained its original structure of oaken beams and broad plank floors. The Village Historic District, consisting of over 350 homes and businesses, is the largest such district in the state.

Official Stamp

Town of Stanford

Once home to film star James Cagney, Stanford was formed in 1793. Two key hamlets survive in the town: Bangall and Stanfordville. Located on County Road 65 just past the Route 82 intersection, Bangall boasts fine dining at the Red Devon, a restaurant, market, and bar that is a renowned farm-to-table destination in the Hudson Valley. In operation since 1915, the Bangall Post Office features local history exhibits and a beautiful partition with antique post boxes salvaged from Newburgh. The Stanford Historical Society, which maintains the post office exhibits, is currently working to preserve a local one-room school house as expanded exhibit space. Stanford features a variety of elegant historic homes, including the 1839 Pulver-Bird House, one of the best surviving examples of rural Greek Revival architecture in the county. The 500 acre Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary, north on Route 82, offers six miles of trails and scenic overlooks and is home to over 80 species of birds including Great Blue Herons, Wood Ducks, and Bobolinks.

Official Stamp

Village of Tivoli

The Village of Tivoli, settled in 1795 and incorporated in 1872, lies in the northwest corner of the Town of Red Hook, on the Hudson River. Once a thriving port and railroad stop, Tivoli is now home to winter iceboat races in Tivoli Bays, an iconic Hudson Valley tradition. The village center features a variety of shops, fine dining, and galleries set within many historic buildings. Watts de Peyster Hall, home to the village offices and library, is Tivoli's most important architectural landmark. Designed by the architect responsible for Trinity Church in Boston, Massachusetts, this impressive Richardson Romanesque firemen's hall was built in 1898 and donated to the village by General John Watts de Peyster, a local landowner and former New York City fireman. The Red Church, dedicated in 1766, is one of the oldest surviving structures in northern Dutchess. Operating as a Dutch Reformed Church until 1840, its burial ground includes African-American veterans of the Civil War. St. Paul's Church on Woods Road contains the graves of local notables including Eleanor Roosevelt's parents.

Official Stamp

Town of Union Vale

Originally part of the Beekman Patent, Union Vale was created in 1827 from the towns of Freedom and Beekman. Verbank Village, off Route 82 in the northern part of the town, was settled in the eighteenth century. Sprout Creek supported several early water-powered mills there. The community later became a stop on the Dutchess and Columbia Railroad. The 1790 Oswego Meeting House and Friends' Cemetery on North Smith Road just past the Oswego Road intersection is on the National Register of Historic Places. A reminder of the once vibrant Quaker presence, it has been linked to the Underground Railroad. The town's parks include Tymor, the largest municipal park in the state, and Frederick E. Godfrey Memorial Park. Tymor Park is home to the town hall as well as the Union Vale Historical Society Museum. The Links at Union Vale, which was designed to resemble famous courses in Ireland and Scotland, lies on the west side of town. This private course was selected as America's Top Golf Course in Zagat's 2012 Best in Country Guide.

Official Stamp

Town of Wappinger

Stretching from the Hudson River to Sprout Creek, Wappinger was incorporated in 1875 and is home to sites from the colonial period to the modern era. Named after the local Wappinger Indians, the town was home to General Jacobus Swartwout, whose home (a private property) still stands on All Angel's Hill Road in the hamlet bearing his name. The Peter Dubois House (also private) on All Angel's Hill Road, also known as White's Corners, is believed to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad. The hamlet of Myer's Corners, located on the same road, is home to the Wappinger War Memorial, commemorating the community's sacrifices during the Second World War, in Brexel Schlathaus Park. The neighboring firehouse includes a monument to the 9/11 Tragedy. Wappinger Creek was home to a variety of industrial enterprises that funded the many beautiful houses and buildings dotted throughout the town. Among these is Carnwath Farms, a Victorian estate turned town park that offers hiking trails with views of the Hudson, along with the Dutchess County Sports Museum.

Official Stamp

Village of Wappingers Falls

Incorporated in 1871, the settlement of Wappingers Falls dates back to the 1730s, when brothers Adolphus and Nicholas Brewer built their homestead near the center of the present village. Following the great New York City fire of 1776, Peter Mesier moved to Wappingers Falls, buying the Brewer estate and building a new house and store on the site. This store was later raided by Revolutionaries in 1777, an event known locally as the Wappinger Tea Party. The site is preserved as Mesier Homestead Park and is open for weekend tours. The neighboring Grinnell Library, built by Irving Grinnell in 1887, houses the paintings of local artist Clinton Clapp, depicting village life in 1883-4. Across the street from Mesier lies the old post office built by the WPA during the Depression, now the village police department. Framed by the 1852 stone bridge, the falls of Wappinger Creek provided power to textile mills including the Dutchess Bleachery, the remains of which can still be seen today, and the world-famous Sweet-Orr Plant, manufacturer of jeans and overalls.

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Town of Washington

Carved out of the 1697 Great Nine Partners Patent, the Town of Washington was incorporated in 1787 in central Dutchess County. The Society of Friends created a thriving community at Nine Partners on present-day Route 343. After their 1769 log meeting house burned it was replaced in 1780 by a brick one which survives, but the adjacent Nine Partners Boarding School and hamlet have disappeared. Lithgow, another early settlement to the east, fared better with several buildings, including St. Peter's Church (1880), still intact. Orvis Sandanona, established in 1856, is the oldest permitted shotgun shooting club in the country with a main lodge built during the presidency of Thomas Jefferson. Ranked among the best in the nation, it provides grounds for modern sporting clays shooting, fly fishing and wingshooting schools. Millbrook Vineyards and Winery, cultivated on 130 acres, offers world-class Hudson Valley Wines, guided tours and wine tastings. The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies on Route 44 features 2000 acres of green space complete with hiking trails.

Official Stamp

Municipal Clerks Offices

Town of Amenia Clerk
4988 Route 22
Amenia, NY 12501
(845) 373-8118 ext. 101
M-Th, 9 AM-3 PM

City of Beacon Clerk
1 Municipal Plaza
Beacon, NY 12508
(845) 838-5000
M-F, 8 AM-4 PM

Town of Beekman Clerk
4 Main Street
Poughquag, NY 12570
(845) 724-5300 ext. 221
M-Th, 8:15 AM-5 PM

Town of Clinton Clerk
1215 Centre Road (County Rte 18)
Rhinebeck, NY 12572
(845)-266-5853
M,W, 9 AM-1 PM, T,Th, 9 AM-2 PM

Town of Dover Clerk
126 East Duncan Hill Road
Dover Plains, New York 12522
(845) 832 - 6111
M-F, 8 AM-4 PM, 2nd Sat 9 AM-1 PM

Town of East Fishkill Clerk
330 Route 376
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
(845)221-9191
M-F, 9 AM-3:45 PM

Town of Fishkill Clerk
807 New York Route 52 Business,
Fishkill, NY 12524
(845) 831-7800 ext. 3329
M-F, 8 AM-4:30 PM

Village of Fishkill Clerk
1095 Main St.
Fishkill, NY 12524
(845) 897-4430
M-F, 8 AM-4 PM

Town of Hyde Park Clerk
4383 Albany Post Rd,
Hyde Park, NY 12538
(845) 229-2103
M-F, 8:30 AM-4 PM

Town of LaGrange Clerk
120 Stringham Rd,
Lagrangeville, NY 12540
(845) 452-1830
M, W-F, 8:30 AM-4 PM, T, 8 AM-3:30 PM

Town of Milan Clerk
20 Wilcox Circle
Milan, New York 12571
(845) 758-5133
M,W,F, 9 AM-4 PM

Village of Millbrook Clerk
35 Merritt Avenue
Millbrook, N.Y. 12545
(845) 677-3939
M-F, 8 AM-12 PM, 1 PM-3 PM

Village of Millerton Clerk
21 Dutchess Ave.
Millerton, NY 12546
(518) 789-4489
M-F: 9 AM - 3 PM, W 5 PM-7 PM

Town of North East Clerk
19 North Maple Avenue
Millerton, NY 12546
(518) 789-3300 ext. 603
M-Th, 9 AM-12:30 PM, 1 PM-4 PM
F, 9 AM-12:30 PM

Town of Pawling Clerk
160 Charles Colman Blvd.
Pawling, NY 12564
(845) 855-5040
M-F, 8:30-4

Village of Pawling Clerk
9 Memorial Ave,
Pawling, New York 12564
(845) 855-1122
M-F, 8 AM-4 PM

Town of Pine Plains Clerk
3284 New York 199
Pine Plains, NY 12567
(518) 398-7155
M-F, 10 AM-1:15 PM

Town of Pleasant Valley Clerk
1554 Main Street
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
(845) 635-3274
M-Th, 9 AM-4 PM, F, 9 AM-1 PM

City of Poughkeepsie Chamberlain
62 Civic Center Plaza
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 451-4276
M-F, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Town of Poughkeepsie Clerk
1 Overocker Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(845) 485-3620
M-F, 8 AM-4 PM

Town of Red Hook Clerk
7340 South Broadway
Red Hook NY 12571
(845) 758-4606
M-F, 9 AM-4 PM

Village of Red Hook Clerk
7467 South Broadway
Red Hook, NY 12571
(845) 758-1081
M-F, 9 AM-4 PM

Town of Rhinebeck Clerk
80 East Market Street
Rhinebeck, NY 12572
(845) 876-3409
M-F, 9 AM-4 PM

Village of Rhinebeck Clerk
76 East Market Street,
Rhinebeck, New York 12572
(845) 876-7015
M-F, 9 AM-4 PM

Town of Stanford Clerk
26 Town Hall Road
Stanfordville, NY 12581
(845) 868-1366
M-F, 9 AM-1 PM

Village of Tivoli Clerk
86 Broadway
Tivoli, New York 12583
(845) 757-2021
M-F, 9 AM-4 PM

Town of Union Vale Clerk
249 Duncan Road
LaGrangeville, NY 12540
(845) 724-5600
M-Th, 10 AM-4 PM

Town of Wappinger Clerk
20 Middlebush Rd
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
(845) 297-5771
M-F, 8:30 AM-4 PM

Village of Wappingers Falls Clerk
2582 South Avenue
Wapppingers Falls, NY 12590
(845) 297-8773 ext. 5
T, Th, 8:30 AM-4 PM

Town of Washington Clerk
10 Reservoir Drive
Millbrook, NY 12545
(845) 677-3419
M-F, 9 AM-12:30 PM, 1:30 PM-3 PM

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