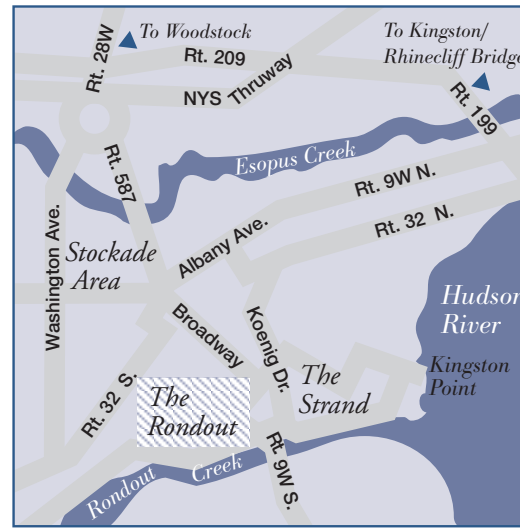




The RONDOUT

The Rondout Historic District of Kingston sweeps up from the waterfront, revealing the evolution of a maritime village as it climbs the hill. One of only three deep-water ports along the length of the Hudson River, Rondout became the scene of maritime activity shortly after Henry Hudson's 1609 voyage up the river. The port was pivotal to commerce carried on in colonial New Netherlands with Dutch sloops routinely docking at Rondout Landing, loading up huge stores of locally grown grain, and leaving behind household and mercantile goods for the village of Kingston two miles north.

The watershed year in Rondout's history was 1828. The Delaware and Hudson Canal was built to haul coal 108 miles from the mountains of Pennsylvania to Rondout for reshipment to cities along the eastern seaboard. Soon, canal boats crowded the narrow Rondout Creek cheek by jowl, and wharves to hold the huge coal piles lined the waterfront. The farmland just back of the waterfront sprouted into a village as a "melting pot" of immigrants, mostly Irish and German, poured in to work on the canal and allied businesses – boat building, brick-making and mining recently discovered Rosendale cement. A honeycomb of wooden huts creeping up the hillsides gave the village a gold rush atmosphere.



GETTING HERE:

Kingston may be reached from Exit 19 of the New York State Thruway; from the east side of the Hudson River via the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge and from NYS Routes 9W, 209 and 32.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC KINGSTON

Corner of Wall and Main Streets
 PO Box 3763, Kingston NY 12402
 845-339-0720
www.fohk.org
www.ci.kingston.ny.us

Acknowledgements
 Kingston, New York
 The Architectural Guide by
 Dr. William B. Rhoads

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In 1849



Kingston Point Park (32)

Rondout incorporated as a village, and by 1855, with 6,000 residents, surpassed the uptown village of Kingston in population.

Sensing opportunity in Rondout, entrepreneurs arrived. First and foremost was Thomas Cornell who arrived in 1837, and founded the Cornell

Steamboat Company, which grew from a single sloop to the largest shipping business on the Hudson River. At his death in 1890, his son-in-law, Samuel Coykendall, took over the helm of the family's financial empire which expanded to include railroads, Kingston's

trolley system, the Rosendale Cement Company and several other enterprises. In 1897, Coykendall created Kingston Point Park, which was known throughout the northeast for its beautiful landscaping and the amusements it offered visitors.

Rondout reached its peak of prosperity in 1870, the year 3,000,000 tons of coal were shipped on the canal. In 1871, Rondout petitioned Albany to designate it as a city, but Kingston, alarmed that the more populous waterfront village might upstage it, presented a counter-proposal. On May 29, 1872, the two villages were united and incorporated as the City of Kingston.

As Rondout's fortune rose with the D. & H. Canal, so it also sank as railroads eclipsed canals in the late 19th century. The D. & H. Canal closed in 1898, beginning a slow decline that seeped in over the next half century. In the

1960s, urban renewal cleared Rondout's east side of buildings, but stopped short of the west side which still retains a rich legacy of architecture that reflects the character of the thriving 19th century maritime village. In 1974, it was named to the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Today, restaurants, shops and art galleries occupy many of the nineteenth century commercial buildings, brought to life again by a new generation of entrepreneurs and artists. In place of canal boats and coal docks are yachts and sail boats, moored at the many marinas along the Rondout Creek. A new maritime "village" has emerged.

The Rondout Walking Tour ▲



(above top) Rondout Creek Harbor East Strand (4)



1 KINGSTON HERITAGE AREA VISITORS CENTER

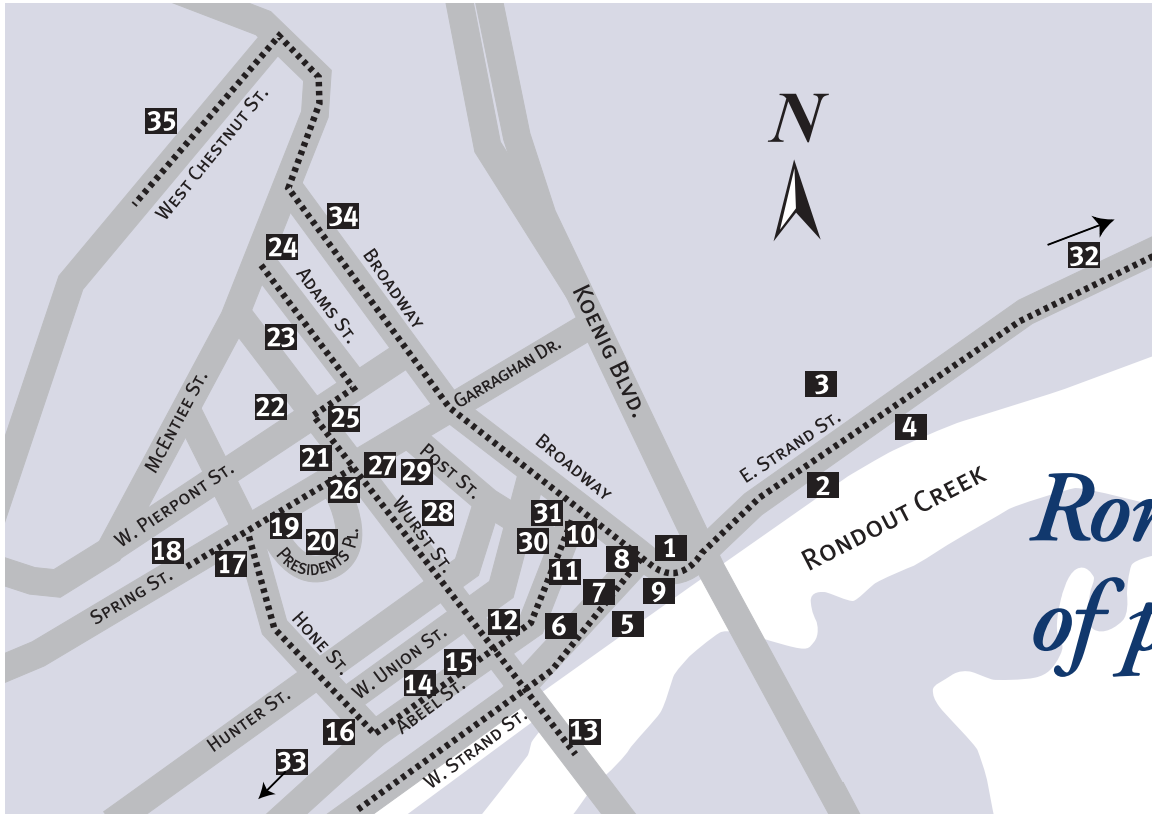
20 Broadway. Offers exhibits relating to local history, regional brochures, maps. Open year round Mon.-Fri. 9-5 pm. Weekends May-Oct. 10-5 p.m. 800/331-1518; 800/331-7517.

1a THOMAS CHAMBERS MARKER

The pear tree marks the original burial site of Kingston's "founding father," Thomas Chambers, who led the first European settlers here in 1652. An earlier pear tree Chambers supposedly planted stood here until 1926. The bluestone marker replicates the original stone now at the Senate House State Historic Site, 312 Fair St. In 1850, Chambers was exhumed and removed to Montrepose Cemetery because the rapidly growing village was closing in on the gravesite.

1b BLUESTONE BENCH

Erected in 2003 by the Friends of Rondout using early local bluestone, which was quarried northwest of Kingston and shipped in huge quantities from the docks at Rondout. (See # 33).



2 HUDSON RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM

50 Rondout Landing. Features ice boats, small boats, ship models, museum store; offers boat rides to the 1913 Rondout Lighthouse on scheduled dates. 845/338-0071.

3 TROLLEY MUSEUM

89 East Strand. Offers trolley rides on weekends/holidays on original tracks along the waterfront to Kingston Point Park and the Hudson River. Visitors center and museum store. 845/331-3399.

4 CORNELL STEAMBOAT COMPANY BOILER SHOP (C. 1892) AND REPAIR SHOP (1901)

East Strand. The buildings, with large openings on the Rondout Creek, serviced tugs of the Cornell Steamboat Company. The great arched windows and raised monitor roofs enhanced interior light and air.

5 T.R. GALLO MEMORIAL PARK

Former site of the Cornell Steamboat Company, an Italianate style office building (1881-83), demolished in 1966 during urban renewal. Originally called West Strand Plaza, the park was created by the Urban Cultural Parks program in 1984, and was renamed to honor Mayor T.R. Gallo who died while in office in 2002.

6 COMPANY HILL PATH

West Strand. D & H Canal workers walked this path from the paymaster's house at the bottom to the company's three-story bluestone office building (no longer extant) at the top of the hill.

7 WEST STRAND ROW

c. 1870 9-29 West Strand. Reflecting the peak of Rondout's prosperity in the 1870s, these seven buildings are designed in the Italianate style with arched windows and heavily bracketed cornices. Storefronts have cast-iron columns manufactured by Rondout Iron Works whose name can be seen on their bases. Some buildings also have cast-iron lintels.

8 MANSION HOUSE

West Strand/Broadway. Built in 1854 with 100 "sleeping compartments" and originally crowned by a cupola, it was Rondout's luxury hotel for several decades. Steamboat passengers disembarking at Rondout could connect with stages that left for the Catskill Mountains from the hotel door.

9 SAMPSON OPERA HOUSE

West Strand/Broadway. Designed in 1875 by noted New York City architect Henry Engelbert, the building featured a fourth floor with a mansard roof and tower, both destroyed by fire in 1885. The third and fourth floors housed performance spaces. On the first floor, the Sampson and Ellis clothing store was noted for unique sales techniques such as having monkeys entertain children while their parents shopped. The ground story features 31 cast-iron columns, made by Rondout Iron Works. From the turn of the 20th century to 1974, it housed the local newspaper, *The Freeman*.

10 SAMPSON HOUSE

16 Abeel St. Built 1873-74 in the Second Empire Style with a mansard roof, bracketed cornice and symmetrical two-story bay windows, it was the family home of the owners of the Sampson Opera House (see #9).

11 JACOB FORST HOUSE

26 Abeel St. Built c. 1887 in the Colonial Revival style by German immigrant Jacob Forst who, in 1901, founded the Forst Meat Packing Company, (formerly at 114 Abeel St), a major employer in Rondout up to the mid-20th century.

12 FORMER TEMPLE EMANUEL

50 Abeel St. Built in 1892 for one of three Jewish congregations in Rondout. The Emanuel Congregation was incorporated in 1854 by German Jews, and became a Reform congregation in the 1890s. In 1958, the congregation moved to a new synagogue on Albany Ave. In the mid-1990s, the building became a restaurant and night club. At that time, a large circular stained glass window featuring

a Star of David was moved to the new synagogue. Two tablets of the Law are still embedded in the front wall.

13 RONDOUT CREEK BRIDGE

Opened in 1922, it replaced the chain ferry "Skillipot." Near the end of construction, cracks appeared in the bands binding the main cables. To people's amazement, the repairs were done by a woman, Mrs. Catherine Nelson, an expert electrical welder from New Jersey. The bridge overlooks Island Dock where huge piles of coal from Pennsylvania were unloaded from the D. & H. Canal to await reshipment to ports along the eastern U.S. seaboard.

14 FORMER FIREHOUSE-VILLAGE HALL

90 Abeel Street. A great fire swept through the area in 1849 prompting the incorporation of the village of Rondout and organization of a fire department. Built in 1851, it served a dual purpose as village hall and firehouse. When the villages of Rondout and Kingston merged in 1872 to form the City of Kingston, the hall continued to host neighborhood events. The firehouse, called the Cornell Hose, No. 2, Rescue Hook and Ladder Company in honor of Rondout entrepreneur Thomas Cornell, closed in 1972. The restored building now serves as a unique private residence.

15 D. & H. CANAL WORKERS' HOMES

76 Abeel St., 85 Abeel St., 107 Abeel St. Built on lots bought from the D. & H. Canal Co. during the early urbanization of Rondout. To show their refined taste, owners incorporated Federal and Greek Revival details into the design of their homes.

16 THOMAS BURGESS HOUSE

15 Hone St. The c.1837 Federal-style house was built by Thomas Burgess on a lot bought from the D. & H. Canal Co. for \$150 in 1833. The façade features classical details such as Ionic columns and a fanlight. The Friends of Historic Kingston restored the exterior in 1981.

17 TUBBY ROW

Spring Street/ Hone Street. Built in 1870 by Rondout painter Joseph Tubby and his father, a building contractor, the attached houses were made distinctive by the patterned mansard slate roof, decorated cast-iron lintels, and tall French windows. Interiors featured white marble fireplaces and wood parquet floors. Intended for employees of the Jacob Hoffman Brewery just below, the row houses rented for \$350 a year, but were a financial failure. Originally a house and sign painter, Joseph Tubby (1821-96) became a self-taught landscape painter known for his views of Kingston and the vicinity. He was a friend of noted Hudson River School artist and Rondout resident Jervis McEntee.

18 CONRAD HILTEBRANT HOUSE

101 Spring St. Built c.1890 for ship builder Hildebrant whose boat yard in Connelly was one of the largest yards on the Rondout Creek. The house was built in the current vogue, Queen Anne style, with multiple gables, patterned shingles and sunburst motifs in the gable peaks.

19 TRINITY GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

72 Spring Street/ Hone Street. Designed by German-American New York City architect Henry Engelbert (see #9, #22), and built 1873-75. The church features Germanic medieval Romanesque round-arched doors and windows, but with a Gothic spire, pinnacles and wall buttresses. In the 1870s, services were still conducted in German and the German name of the congregation is inscribed in a panel on the façade.

20 PRESIDENT'S PLACE

Originally the site of the home of the president of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Co.



Rondout reached its peak of prosperity in 1870



21 FORMER FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RONDOUT AND PARSONAGE

Corner of Spring/Wurts Streets. The Romanesque Revival-style church (1861) and Italianate-style parsonage (1863) were built on land donated by Rondout entrepreneur and church deacon Thomas Cornell. The church closed its doors in 1957. Both buildings are now private residences.

22 ST. PETER'S CHURCH

91 Wurts St. Built 1871-73 for Rondout's German-speaking Catholics who hired German-American architect Henry Engelbert (see #9, #19). He designed the church in the German medieval style with the typical Romanesque small arches beneath the cornices and triple openings in the tower which once had a spire. Both church and rectory are built of local North River brick.

23 ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

(1911-13) 104 Wurts St. Built 1911-13 to provide the English-speaking members of the Trinity German Lutheran Church (see #19) with their own congregation. Constructed of St. Lawrence marble with Indiana limestone trim, the choice of the Gothic Revival style reflects the congregation's separation in 1896-97 from the German-speaking congregation.

24 ADAMS STREET

Built during the 1850s, the brick row houses and private homes are distinguished by simple Greek Revival entrances. Porches and piazzas are later additions.

25 ST. MARK'S AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Southeast corner Wurts/Pierpont St. Erected in 1861 as the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, the church is built in the Early English Gothic style of squared and coursed rubble and native limestone. The church closed in 1924 due to declining membership. It was occupied by the Ahavath Israel Synagogue from 1926-1966, and sold to St. Mark's A.M.E. Church in 1966.

26 JAMES J. SWEENEY HOUSE

67 Wurts St. The 1896 Colonial Revival-style house belonging to the son of one of the area's largest bluestone dealers, served as a good advertisement for the family business. In 1890, the firm's output of bluestone was 50,000-70,000 tons. Sweeney bluestone was used in building the Washington Monument, the State, War and Navy buildings in Washington, D.C. and the Tiffany Mansion in New York City.

27 THOMAS CORNELL HOUSE SITE

Wurts/Spring Streets. The entrance walk and wall of local limestone define the site where the mansion of Rondout entrepreneur Thomas Cornell (1813-90) stood. Later owned by State Senator Jacob Rice, who married one of Cornell's daughters, the mansion was demolished c.1942.

28 CORNELL PARK

Wurts-Hunter-Post Streets. Originally part of the Thomas Cornell estate, the land was given by his grandchildren to the city of Kingston for \$1 in 1925. The Veterans Monument, erected in 1943, features an eagle from a Cornell Steamboat Company tug on top. The cast iron urns in front of the monument, manufactured by J.W. Fiske of New York, once graced the front of the mansion above and were donated to the park by the Rice family.

29 THOMAS CORNELL CARRIAGE HOUSE

50 Post Street. Designed by J.A. Wood (1837-1910), in the Second Empire style with mansard roofs and ornate dormers on the original three-part structure. The right wing is no longer extant, and the iron cresting crowning all of the mansards is missing. Wood,

leading architect in the Mid-Hudson Valley in the latter 19th century, designed several other prominent Kingston buildings including the Simeon and William B. Fitch office building (see #33).

30 ROWHOUSES

West Union Street between Post and Broadway. Row of pre-Civil war Greek Revival-style brick houses

31 101, 65, 63, 61 Broadway. Italianate-style row-type commercial buildings featuring cast-iron columns by Rondout Iron Works, bluestone sills and large plate glass windows.

NEARBY BY CAR....

32 KINGSTON POINT PARK

Originally called Columbus Point, it was the landing site for British troops who burned the village of Kingston on October 16, 1777. In 1897, business mogul Samuel D. Coykendall opened Kingston Point Park whose Romantic-style landscaping, boating lagoons, carousel, dance pavilion, and other amusements drew thousands of day line passengers and locals daily in its glory days. Closed in 1931, the park's landscaping was restored in recent years by the Kingston Rotary Club.

33 SIMEON AND WILLIAM B. FITCH OFFICE

540 Abeel Street. The office of the Simeon and William B. Fitch Bluestone Company, the 1870 building served as a striking advertisement for the business. Noted architect J. A. Wood added design elements such as polychrome arches and an iron-crested mansard roof that lend the building a non-industrial appearance. An adjacent yard was once filled with slabs of bluestone waiting shipment by boat from Rondout.

34 ST. MARY'S CHURCH

162 Broadway. Built in 1848 mostly for Irish immigrant D. & H. Canal workers who formed a parish in 1835. The original Gothic-style church had pinnacles and an ornamented steeple, which were removed c.1924 when the church was altered. The rectory and convent were built c. 1924; the school, in 1913.

35 CHESTNUT STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

West Chestnut S/East Chestnut /Livingston Streets. The more affluent members of the Rondout business community built homes in this neighborhood. Hudson River School artist Jervis McEntee and business mogul Samuel D. Coykendall both lived on West Chestnut Street.

PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE:

(Courtesy of Friends of Historic Kingston)

(Top): Lower Broadway (31)

(Middle): East Strand (15)

(Bottom): Simeon and William B. Fitch Office (33)