



A Walking Tour

The

STOCKADE

National Historic District
of Kingston

First Capital of New York State



*Welcome to
the neighborhood
where
New York
State was born
in 1777.*

*Garden of the Fred J. Johnston
House and Friends of Historic
Kingston Gallery on the corner
of Main and Wall Street*

In 1658 a group of 60-70

European settlers living along the Esopus Creek moved from the lowlands to the bluff above. Board by board, they took their barns and houses down, carted them uphill and rebuilt them behind a 14-foot high wall.

They were ordered to move for their safety by the Director-General of the colony of New Netherland, Peter Stuyvesant, who selected the site because its height on three sides afforded natural protection. Disputes between the settlers and the Esopus Indians, farming side by side for about five years, had brought both sides to the brink of war. Despite the discord, the Esopus Indians gave the land for the new village as a gift to honor Stuyvesant.

The settlers built the 1,200' x 1,300' wall in three weeks from tree trunks pounded into the ground. By day, the men left their walled village, called Wiltwyck, to go out to farm their fields in the lowlands, but the women and children were confined to life within the stockade. The villagers lived this way until 1664 when a peace treaty was signed ending the second of two wars with the Esopus Indians.

The stockade walls are long gone, but the streets of the original village, planned by Peter Stuyvesant, remain laid out just as they were in 1658. The earliest houses of wood are also gone, replaced by the limestone houses that populate the Stockade Area. A few were given "facelifts" by 19th century owners who added architectural elements such as Gothic Revival gables and gingerbread trim.

Today they are still used as homes and offices, a testament to their sturdiness and timeless design. Built with stones hauled right from the field, many began as a single room with a loft above and were gradually expanded vertically and horizontally.

If these stones could talk, they would tell you how they witnessed the birth of New York State in this neighborhood in 1777. Today, you can still stand in the room in the 1676 Abraham Van Gaasbeek House where the first elected Senate met, and at the site of the county courthouse where the New York State Constitution was written, adopted and read to the public on April 22, 1777. On this site also, Chief Justice John Jay administered the oath of office to New York State's first elected governor George Clinton whose gravesite is just a few steps away in the Old Dutch Church cemetery.

Because it was serving as New York State's first capital, the village was burned by the British on October 16, 1777. More than 300 homes, barns and other buildings were torched, forcing the state government to vacate the village and move further north. But the resilient residents, stone by stone, rebuilt their village, which the British renamed Kingston. More than three centuries later, its noteworthy past is still very visible. It was named a National Historic District in 1975.

Enjoy your walk today.

1 FRED J. JOHNSTON HOUSE/FRIENDS OF HISTORIC KINGSTON GALLERY

63 *Main St.* The c. 1812 Federal style house, built by New York State Senator John Sudam, features the Fred J. Johnston Collection of 18th and early 19th century furnishings and decorative arts, mostly American, in eight elegant room settings. A nationally noted antiques dealer, Mr. Johnston (1911-1993) saved the house from demolition in 1938. The adjacent Friends of Historic Kingston Gallery features local history and art exhibits. Open May-October and by appointment. 845-339-0720.

2 FIRST REFORMED PROTESTANT DUTCH CHURCH

272 *Wall St.* The city's oldest institution, the "Old Dutch Church," a National Historic Landmark, was organized in 1659. The 1852 English Renaissance style church was designed by Minard LaFever and built of native bluestone. The churchyard contains tombstones dating back to 1710 that include 77 Revolutionary War soldiers and the grave of New York's first governor George Clinton, an Ulster County native. The steeple bell, tradition says, was cast in Amsterdam in 1794 from molten silver and copper items given by families at baptismal rites. The church archives contain baptismal and marriage records dating back to 1660. 845-338-6759

3 ULSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

285 *Wall St.* In the original courthouse on this site, the Constitution of New York State was written and adopted on April 20, 1777, New York's first elected governor George Clinton took the oath of office, and the first State Supreme Court, presided over by Chief Justice John Jay, convened here. In the present courthouse, built in 1818, Sojourner Truth, who became a nationally known abolitionist, sued for and won her son's freedom from slavery in Alabama.

4 WALL STREET

Until 1828 Wall St. ended at John St. At the intersection stood the mansion-scale house of Nicholas Vanderlyn, father of internationally noted artist John Vanderlyn (1775-1852). The remnants of the house, burned by the British in 1777, were removed to extend Wall St. to North Front St. for commercial development. In the 1970s, an arcade, designed by a noted Woodstock artist, the late John Pike, was installed on Wall St. and North Front in an attempt to stem the tide of traffic to the new shopping malls.

5 THE CLERMONT

295-299 *Wall St.* Built in 1878 on the SW corner, The Clermont ranks as the finest surviving 19th century commercial building in the uptown business district. Outstanding features include the mansard roof with iron cresting and polychrome tile inserts in the brick walls.



6 THE FOUR CORNERS *At John and Crown Streets.* This is the only intersection in the U.S. where 18th century stone houses stand on all four corners.

7 MATTHEWIS PERSEN HOUSE *74 John St. (pictured above)* The county-owned building consists of five structures built from 1661-1922. The earliest portion (on the left facing Crown St.) was originally wood, but rebuilt in stone after being burned in 1663 in the Second Esopus War. Matthewis Persen, (1739-1819) its longest resident, ran a public house here for many years. Archaeological digs unearthed 20,000 artifacts dating back to 1230 B.C., some of which are displayed inside. Free tours late May to mid-November. www.ulstercountyalive.com.

8 FRANZ ROGGEN HOUSE *42 Crown St.* Built by a Swiss immigrant c. 1752, it was lived in by his descendants until the mid-20th century. The center Gothic Revival gable and windows, the diamond-shaped panes of the door and sidelights, and door canopy are 19th century additions.

9 DR. MATTHEW JANSEN HOUSE *43 Crown St.* The Federal style hipped roofed house replaced a smaller house burned by the British in 1777. It retains one room and the front door from the original structure. The lower wing to the north served as a doctor's office. In 1918, the site became the Old Colony Coffee House serving "real old time griddle cakes and real drip coffee." "Simple suppers" were also available 9 -10 p.m. if ordered in advance by telephone.

10 ABRAHAM LOUW HOUSE *53 Crown St.* Preceding the Old Colony House by more than 100 years, this building was a popular coffee house from 1780-1820. The large center gable is a 19th century addition.

11 KINGSTON ACADEMY 35 Crown St.

Founded in 1774, it was New York State's first two-year college and drew students statewide. Noted alumni include Gov. DeWitt Clinton and artist John Vanderlyn. Twice-yearly oral exams, which took place in front of a large audience, began with a parade and were followed by festive dinners and balls. The original Federal style hipped roofed building has been compromised by commercial adaptations.

12 DR. LUKE KIERSTED HOUSE

95 John St. The only pre-1800 clapboard house remaining in the Stockade Area, the Federal style house is one of the few remaining examples of beaded siding west of Connecticut. Much of the house is brick-lined. Dr. Kiersted practiced here 1767-1820 and during the Revolutionary War, was assigned to administer medical care twice a week to the Tory prisoners confined on ships in the Rondout Creek. Threatened with demolition to widen the street, the house was bought and restored by Friends of Historic Kingston in 1973 and resold to private owners.

13 EGBERT DUMOND HOUSE 147 Green St.

Though built c. 1690, the house is Federal in style, due perhaps to modifications made after the burning by the British in 1777 when features such as the small-scaled cornice may have been added. The walls are two-feet thick with no two rooms on the same level. A chest for concealing silver was built into the step going down into the living room. Named for Ulster County's first sheriff (1771-73) who lived here, the house was noted for having Kingston's first piano that drew people to the window to watch Dumond's daughter Rachel play. When she married, he built the attached frame house for her.

14 GERRET VAN KEUREN HOUSE

138 Green St. From c. 1711 through most of the 19th century, the Dutch style farmhouse was owned by the Van Keuren family. It was damaged in 1776 when fire erupted in the Hasbrouck House across the street and again in 1777 when the British burned Kingston. Charred beams in the basement are evidence of the latter fire. Deteriorated and divided into small rooms for a boarding house in the late 19th century, the house was restored to its original plan in the early 1920s by Kingston architect Myron S. Teller, a specialist in the restoration of old stone houses.

15 COLONEL ABRAHAM HASBROUCK HOUSE 135 Green St.

The Lt. Colonel, who served with the Northern Militia of Ulster County during the American Revolution, lived here from 1735 -1776 when the house, along with many of its neighbors, was badly damaged by a fire which started in the attic. In 1777,

the British torched it again. Later rebuilt, the early duplex retains its original Dutch stone stoops but the entrance canopies, dormers and stone gable with Gothic Revival windows are late 19th century additions.

16 BOARD-AND-BATTEN HOUSE

124 Green St. This Carpenter Gothic cottage is the only house of its kind in the Stockade Area. The mid-19th century style was made popular by Andrew Jackson Downing in his book, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, published in 1850.

17 JUDGE LUCAS ELMENDORF HOUSE

111 Green St. Unlike earlier stone houses in the Stockade Area, this hipped roofed house, built c.1790, has smooth, uniformly cut stones. A noteworthy architectural feature is the baroque entrance way, likely a 19th century addition to the 21-room mansion. Judge Elmendorf was a three-term congressman and associate of Thomas Jefferson (1797-1803), and also Ulster County's first judge (1815-21).

18 SLEIGHT-TAPPEN HOUSE

Junction of Green and Crown St. (pictured right) The original house, the rear portion, was built in the late 1600s but enlarged shortly afterward. On the right exterior wall, a

bee hive oven projects from the kitchen. During the Revolution, it was the home of Henry Sleight, the village president. In the 19th century, its owner, John Tappen, published a newspaper, the *Plebeian*, on the



second floor. In 1905, the house was purchased by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Wiltwyck Chapter, who engaged Kingston architect Myron S. Teller to restore it. He installed the Dutch divided door, stoop with settees, and Federal transom and sidelights. Open to the public for special events.

*In the original courthouse on this site,
New York State was written*

19 CORNELIUS TAPPEN HOUSE 10 Crown St.

Due to its uncut and uncoursed stones, particularly visible on the south wall, this is called a “rubble” house. It was built in the “salt box” style, so named because salt was packaged in similar shaped boxes in Colonial times. The lean-to in the rear is a later addition. Slated for demolition in the 1970s as part of the uptown urban renewal project, the house was rescued by Heritage Savings Bank who bought and restored the building as a banking facility.

20 JACOB TREMPER HOUSE

Green and Main St. The mansion-scale house, now apartments, boasts 35 rooms and 10 fireplaces. The mansard roof, which replaced the original hipped roof, the canopy over the front doorways and side porches are post-Civil War additions.



21 DR. JAMES ELMENDORF HOUSE

77 Main St. (pictured above) The late 18th century house retains its original stone walls on the first story but was given a “face lift” in the 19th century with the addition of Gothic Revival brick gables and a center dormer. The house was also enlarged with a clapboard addition in the rear. A veneer covers the original limestone.

22 TOBIAS SWART HOUSE 74 Main St.

The brick façade on the front covers the original limestone walls, still visible on the sides. The large front windows on the first story are also later modifications. Next door, 78 Main Street, is a good example of the stepped gable used on a nineteenth century brick house.

*the Constitution of
and adopted on April 20, 1777.*

23 DR. CORNELIUS ELMENDORF HOUSE

255 Wall St. The original c. 1725 house faced Main St., but the front door was removed and the large windows added to convert it to commercial use. The wing on Wall St. is a faithful reproduction, done by using stone from the rear of the original house. Dr. Elmendorf was appointed the commissary of the prison ships in the Rondout Creek, making him responsible for seeing that the British prisoners had sufficient provisions, but, at one point, he was charged with not giving them enough bread.

24 ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC

CHURCH Wall/Main St. Hidden behind the Gothic façade is the original Greek Revival church built by the Old Dutch Church congregation in 1832 and still visible on the sides. After the congregation moved across the street in 1852, the building became an armory. In 1869, altered by noted architect J.A. Wood, it was dedicated as St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. The current façade with its Gothic Revival arches and corner tower was added in 1898. The Greek Revival building to the left of the church was built in 1837 as the parsonage for the Old Dutch Church. 845-338-1554

25 WILTWYCK INN 48 Main St. Bearing the name given the village by Peter Stuyvesant, the c. 1910 building, designed by Kingston architect Myron S. Teller, pays homage to Kingston's Dutch heritage and 17th century Dutch architecture with its stepped gable. Built by Miss Mary Kenney, a suffragette, the inn catered to women, providing them with a refined place for tea and luncheons. She also made her home here.

26 BURGEVIN BUILDING Fair and Main Sts.

The Burgevin family, owners of a large nursery with greenhouses on upper Pearl St., commissioned Kingston architect Myron S. Teller to design this building to house their florist shop. Built 1904-1905 in the Georgian Revival style, it housed a flower shop for more than a century. The Wiltwyck Inn also originated here.

27 WILTWYCK HOSE COMPANY 265 Fair St.

Built in 1857 for the Wiltwyck Hose Company.

*New York's first elected governor
George Clinton took the oath of
office here at the Ulster County
Courthouse.*

28 KINGSTON NATIONAL BANK

Corner Main and Fair St. The Green Revival building has been continuously occupied by banks since it opened as the Kingston National Bank in 1839. The rear wing was originally the residence of Joseph S. Smith, an officer of the bank who supervised its construction.

29 DR. ELBERT H. LOUGHRAN HOUSE AND OFFICE *25 Main St.* New York architect Edward Alfred Sargent introduced the Queen Anne style to Kingston with this house built in 1883. Characteristic of the style, the house has multiple gables, patterned shingles and walls of several materials.

30 KIRKLAND HOTEL *Main St. and Clinton Ave.*



An interior staircase of the Kirkland Hotel Building

The 75-room Tudor style building opened as a boarding house in 1899 but became a hotel in 1922. From 1952-1972 its basement was the home of the popular Dutch Rathskeller. Hotel accommodations ended in 1968. Empty for more than 30 years, the building was threatened with demolition until it was restored by the nonprofit RUPCO. Reopened in 2005, it offers a mix of commercial and residential spaces.

31 AMELIA WESTBROOK HOUSE

292 Clinton Ave. The Greek Revival cottage was built c. 1831 by uptown Kingston developer Joseph S. Smith and named after its longest occupant, Amelia Westbrook (1880-1938). In 1999, the house, in a deteriorated state, was bought and restored by the Friends of Historic Kingston and resold to a private owner.

32 WILLIAM DEWITT HOUSE *20 John St.*

The c. 1836 Greek Revival house was the home of City Historian William Dewitt, author of *The People's History of Kingston* (1943). In 1975, threatened with demolition to build a bank parking lot exit, it was bought by the Friends of Historic Kingston to prevent a disruption of the line of significant architecture. The block includes several 1850-1860 Italianate townhouses, an 18th century stone house hidden behind a brick façade and a c. 1890 Queen Anne style apartment building.

33 THE STUYVESANT HOTEL *289 Fair Street*

Built 1910-1911, the hotel was designed by architect J.A. Wood and named for the Director-General of New Netherland (1642-1664), Peter Stuyvesant. The hotel advertised its 150 rooms as the most modern in the Hudson Valley with hot and cold running water, electric lights and telephones. Vacant for more than 10 years, in 1993, it was restored by the RUPCO and converted into 40 apartments for the elderly and people with disabilities.

34 SENATE HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

THE LOUGHRAN HOUSE *296 Fair St.*

Built in 1872, the Italianate style house was designed by architect J.A. Wood for Dr. Robert Loughran. Part of the Senate House State Historic Site, the house hosts exhibits. 845-338-2796.

SENATE HOUSE MUSEUM *Fair St.* A 1927 addition to the Senate House State Historic Site, the museum was built of fieldstone to resemble Kingston's 18th century stone houses. It contains the largest collection of paintings, drawings and papers of internationally known Kingston artist John Vanderlyn. 845-338-2796.

1676 SENATE HOUSE *331 Clinton Ave.*

Second Oldest New York State Historic Site. The first New York State Senate met here in September and October of 1777 when the building was the home of merchant Abraham Van Gaasbeek. The original one-room house, the center section, was built in 1676 by Wessel Ten Broeck. In the 18th century two rooms were added to the north and south, the latter, the room in which the Senate met. The building is illustrative of early Dutch architecture in New York with its long, low profile and 1½ stories. In 1887, Ten Broeck descendants deeded the house to New York State. Open to the public. 845-338-2796.

35 JOHN TREMPER HOUSE *3 North Front St.*

Built in 1802 in the former northeast corner of the Stockade Area, the Federal style house is built of limestone later covered with stucco. The original hipped roof was also changed to a mansard style.

36 PEACE PARK *Corner North Front and Crown St.*

The large stone house of Jacobus S. Bruyn stood on this site until it was demolished in the 1960s. During the American Revolution, the Princeton graduate commanded a company that he personally outfitted. Captured in 1777 at Fort Montgomery, he was confined to a prison ship in New York harbor for three years.

37 ANTHONY FREER HOUSE

61 North Front St. The structure of the original stone-house, which backed up to the north wall of the 1658 Stockade, is still visible despite commercial adaptations.

38 SCHOOL NO. 7 61 Crown St. Originally School No. 11, the building was erected in 1871 but suffered a calamitous fire in 1901 that left only the brick walls standing. Rebuilt following Myron S. Teller's design, it served a student population until the 1970s when it was converted to office space to serve as the headquarters for the Kingston Consolidated School System.

39 DR. JACOBUS COENRADT ELMENDORF HOUSE 175 Green St. This house served as a Methodist Church during the time when the Dutch only allowed other religious denominations to hold services in private. A settler would add a meeting room to his home for that purpose.

Just outside the north wall of the 1658 Stockade Area stand the stabilized ruins of the Pieter Cornelise Louw house. Gutted by fire in the 1960s, the structure reveals the simplicity of an early settler's home.

40 ANTHONY HOFFMAN HOUSE 96 North Front St. The earliest portion of the house was possibly built in the late 17th century but added to several times as evidenced by vertical seams visible in the walls. The Hoffman family came into possession of the house in 1707 and nine generations lived here for 201 years. The most notable was Anthony Hoffman, a member of the Provincial Congress in 1774 and signer of the Articles of Confederation in 1775. The house was restored in 1977 as a tavern restaurant.

41 FROG ALLEY RUINS *North Front St. and Frog Alley* Just outside the north wall of the 1658 Stockade Area stand the stabilized ruins of the Pieter Cornelise Louw house. Gutted by fire in the 1960s, the structure reveals the simplicity of an early settler's home. The eastern portion possibly dates to the 1660s and the western section to the 18th century. Purchased from the Kingston Urban Renewal Agency by the Friends of Historic Kingston in 1975, the foundation walls and park are maintained by the preservation organization.

Just Beyond the Border

Walk one block south of Main Street and discover another neighborhood with a rich store of significant architecture.

42 TOBIAS VAN BUREN HOUSE

28 Green St. This 18th c. house was built by a relative of President Martin Van Buren. In 1920 it was restored by Myron S. Teller for Mrs. Mae K. Gordon.

43 CORNELIUS VAN BUREN HOUSE

7 Green St. Tobias Van Buren built this house for his son.

44 BOGARDUS TAVERN SITE *Maiden Lane and Fair St., NW Corner*

The first New York State Assembly met in the tavern here in 1777.

45 CONRAD ELMENDORF HOUSE

Maiden Lane and Fair St., SE Corner

The Council of Safety met here in 1777.

46 ST. JAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Fair and Pearl Sts. The 1893 church is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque, based on the work of noted Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson.

47 SECOND REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH

219 Fair St. The Gothic Church was built in 1850 by former congregants of the First Dutch Reformed Church on Main Street.

48 FAIR STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

From St. James to Franklin St. Large homes built in the second half of the 19th century line the street.

49 TOBIAS VAN STEENBURGH HOUSE

97 Wall St. This 18th c. house is reputed to be the only dwelling not burned by the British in 1777.

50 JAMES B. WEEKS HOUSE

26 Pearl St. Called "The Columns," the c. 1839 house is the best example of the Greek Revival in Kingston.



Friends of Historic Kingston

The Friends of Historic Kingston is a volunteer membership organization founded in 1965 to preserve the city's exceptional collection of historically and architecturally significant buildings and properties.

The Fred J. Johnston House, (photo above) is maintained and administered by the Friends of Historic Kingston. The Federal style townhouse at 63 Main Street showcases the collection of Fred J. Johnston, a noted antiques dealer and advocate for historic preservation. Eight rooms feature 18th and early 19th century furnishings and decorative arts, mostly American. The house is open May-October.

The adjacent Friends of Historic Kingston Gallery presents exhibits, lectures and programs related to local history. We welcome new members.

For more information or to arrange a tour:
845-339-0720 or visit our website.

www.fohk.org

#41
Frog Alley Ruins



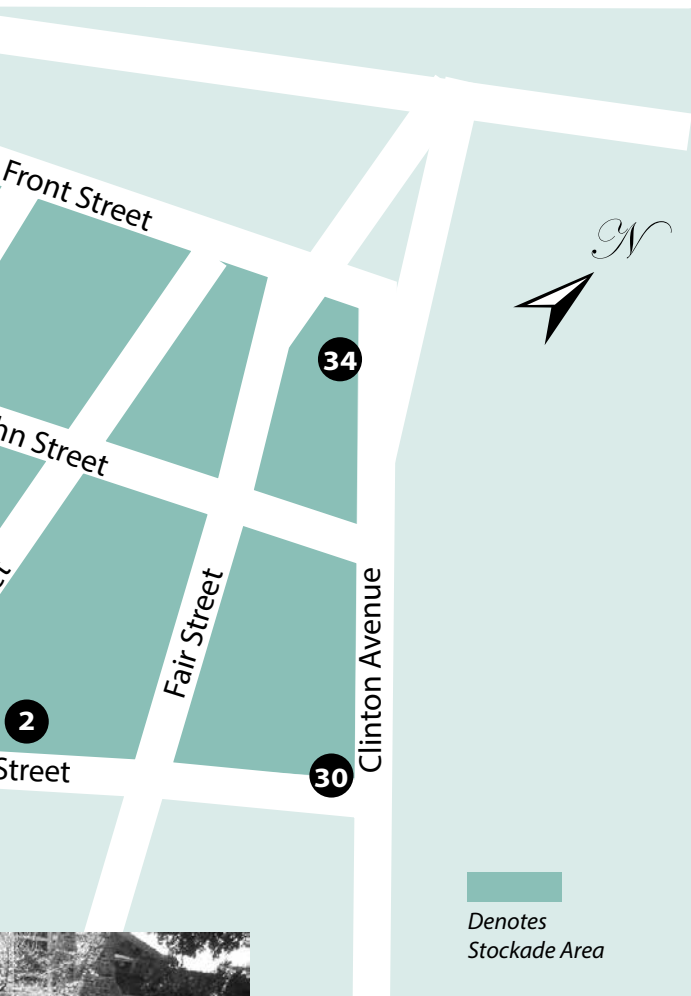
#3 *Ulster County Courthouse*



#2 *Old Dutch Church*



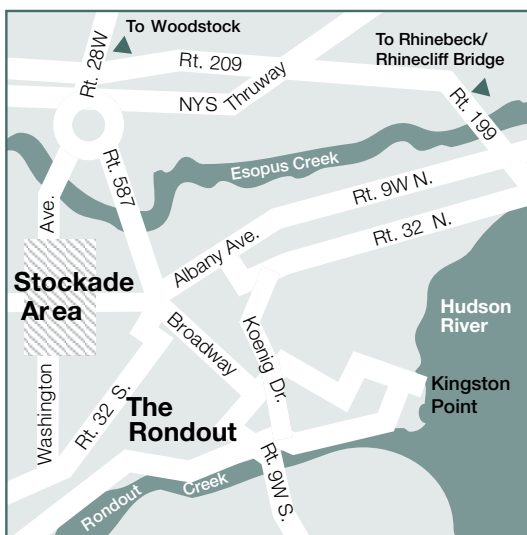
#34
Senate House
State Historic Site



ch Church



#30 *The Kirkland Building*



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Corner of Wall and
Main Streets
PO Box 3763
Kingston NY 12402
845-339-0720

www.fohk.org
www.ulsteralive.com

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