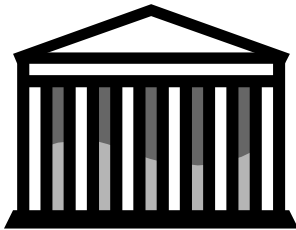




Town of Rhinebeck

DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF YOUR RHINEBECK HOUSE

*Learn about the date, style, and history
of your house in Rhinebeck*



Greek Revival 1830-1845

Nancy V. Kelly, Historian

Town of Rhinebeck
80 E. Market Street
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Phone: 845-876-4592

Email: kinship@hvc.rr.com

Dating the House

Discover the House History

Follow the steps outlined in this brochure to learn about the history of your house. Resources and contact information are listed on the last page.

Knowledge of house history offers many advantages.

- The property will assume more meaning for you.
- You will add value to the house by providing provenance and by following guidelines for restoration to the appropriate period of the house.
- Interesting people may have lived in the house. Their occupations and activities may influence the way in which you decide to interpret the house and grounds.



**Wilderstein, 1888
Queen Anne Style**

You may learn who built the house, when it was built, the style of the house, what it looked like originally and changes which have been made.

Rhinebeck has a rich history. Your house shares that history. Research tools are now available which can assist you in learning about the house. Let the walls speak to you!

1. National Register

Many homes in Rhinebeck are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places via the 16 Mile Historic District, the Rhinebeck Village District, and the Multi-Resource District or as individual listings. Consult the National Register website, (www.cr.nps.gov/nr/) The properties and description may be found at the Starr Library or Quitman Resource Center.

2. Oral History

Obtain as much information as possible from the former owner, his family members or long time neighbors. They may be able to provide photographs or other useful information about how the property was used and developed. However, be sure to continue your search. Oral history sometimes become distorted!

3. Study Detailed Maps

Nineteenth Century maps of Rhinebeck show house locations and names of owners. Identifying your house on these maps will enable you to determine owners and the period when your house appeared on the map. Consult the following:

- 1850 Dutchess County Wall Map
- 1858 Dutchess County Wall Map
- 1867 Beers Atlas
- 1876 Gray Atlas, New Historical Atlas of Dutchess County, NY
- 1898 Birdseye Map of Rhinebeck L.R. Burleigh, Troy, NY RHS has reproductions or

view at:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/amhome.html>



**Wildercliff 1799
Gambrel roof
Colonial**

–1798 Maps of Rhinebeck by Alexander Thompson shows many details which may be used to identify early houses. Consult the Egbert Historical Society & Museum of Rhinebeck History

for copies of these maps.

4. Deed Search & Property Title Abstract

Read through your deed to the property; note the earliest owner and also get book and page number where an earlier deed is filed. If you obtained title insurance chain of title may be available from the title insurance company or the lawyer who handled the sale of the house.

You may conduct deed research on the second floor at the Dutchess County Clerk's Office, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie. Grantee (buyer) and Grantor (seller) indexes are located next to each other in the first aisle. Follow instructions at the beginning



1921 "Castleton" Sears

of the book to use the index. Refer to the Liber (book) and page number to find the full deed. The earliest books are located in the same aisle. Using the grantor's name, you can trace back in time. Find when that individual was a grantee and if a book and page are cited. Study deeds to dis-

cover mention of a building on the property or a recital of

the chain of title.

Much of Rhinebeck was originally deeded to Henry Beekman in 1697 and 1703. He retained the title to much of his property for his heirs and provided lease arrangements for the occupants of the property. In some cases, this means that deeds were not recorded for these properties until late nineteenth or early twentieth century. Occasionally it is possible to trace leases through archival information.

5. Wills & Estate Records

Further information, inventories of personal property and auction listing may be found in estate papers. These are located in the Dutchess County

Court House in the Probate Court's office. Consult the will probate index for box numbers to see if a file exists for the probate. Also use **Dutchess County Probate Records 1773-1865**, by Arthur CM Kelly at Starr Library. You may want to use death dates to locate obituary information in the Rhinebeck Gazette microfilm at the Starr Library.

6. Other Sources

Maps showing large areas of Rhinebeck with the leased properties are available:

- Great Lot, 1802 Morgan Lewis (Kerr Road south to Hyde Park) Rhinebeck Historical Society Collection
- Great Lot 1, 1803 Janet Livingston Montgomery, by John Wigram (North of Kerr Road to Route 308) ELP Collection Princeton U.
- Great Lots 3 & 4, 1803 Robert G. Livingston, by Alexander Thompson & Andrew LeFever, (Wey's Crossing Road to Red Hook) ELP Collection at Princeton U.
- Village, 1804 Reformed Church Property (a large section of the village from South Street to Livingston St. and east to Beech Street)

Additional information is available from Rent Books kept by H. Beekman and his successors. Check with the Town Historian for information about these books. Properties, 1833- 1917, in the south part of the town, deeded by Mrs. Olin Mills are listed in a rent book at Adriaance Library, Poughkeepsie, microfilm **0929819**.



1844 Delamater House

Sanborn Insurance Maps of the village of Rhinebeck and the hamlet of Rhinecliff were prepared periodically. These were specifically for insurance purposes and give detailed information about types of materials, additions, porches, etc. They are available for the years 1867-1942 at the Library of Congress and at the Museum of Rhinebeck History

Photograph collections showing many of the historic houses in Rhinebeck are catalogued by the Consortium of Rhinebeck History. Consult the Rhinebeck Historical Society, the Museum of Rhinebeck History and the DAR. Examples at www.hudsonrivervalleyheritage.org

Census information including Federal Census 1790-1930 and State Census 1865+ provide value of property, type of dwelling and agricultural information. Indexes are available and census on microfilm may be viewed at the Starr Library.

7. Determine the Architectural Style

The architectural style will help you to determine the period when the house was built. Be sure to consider changes which may have occurred due to additions and remodeling. Books such as **Identifying American Architecture** by J. Blumenson, **American Architecture Since 1780** by Marcus Wiffen and **What Style is It?** by Poppeliers, Chambers, and Schwartz are useful.

Rhinebeck's Historic Architecture by Nancy Kelly lists dates, typical for various styles occurring in Rhinebeck:

Colonial 1700-1810
Georgian, Federal-1790-1840
Greek Revival 1830-1845,

Resources

Italianate 1852-1877,
Gothic Revival 1842-1870,
Second Empire 1871-1880
Queen Anne, Eastlake, Shingle 1888-1914
Eclectic (Tudor, Spanish Revival, Beaux Arts,
Craftsman) 1880-1948

Many houses built during the 1920's were kits, ordered from Sears. Refer to the Sears web-site, www.searsmodernhomes.com if you would like to try to identify the model. Dover Publications has reprinted a 1926 catalog of Sears homes and several books are available on the subject.

8. Read the Structure

Elements of the structure such as the timbers, framing methods, hardware and nails can offer useful clues about the period when the building was constructed

Refer to the book by Sally Light for detailed suggestions. The Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture organization can provide information for eighteenth century structures.

Consult Quitman Resource Center for Preservation, Rhinebeck Historical Society and Hudson River Heritage for more information.



1875 O'Brien House

Books

- Light, Sally *House Histories, A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home*, 1997 Golden Hill Press, Inc. Box 122 Spencertown NY 12165
 - Kelly, Nancy *Brief History of Rhinebeck*, 2001
 - Kelly, Nancy *Rhinebeck's Historic Architecture*, 2009
 - Morse, Howard, *Historic Old Rhinebeck* 1908
 - Smith, Edward, *History of Rhinebeck* 1881
 - Tietjen, Sari, *Portrait of a Town*, 1987
- Rhinebeck Histories may be purchased locally or at:
www.kinshipny.com

Organizations www.rhinebeckhistory.org

- **DAR**, 77 Livingston St., Rhinebeck 12572
- **Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture**
PO Box 202, West Hurley, NY 12491 .www.hvva.org
- **Hudson River Heritage** PO Box 287 Rhinebeck
845/876-474 www.hudsonriverheritage.org
- **Quitman Resource Center**– 845/871-1798
PO Box 624 , Route 9 North, Rhinebeck
- **Rhinebeck Historical Society** 845/876-7341
291 PO Box, Rhinebeck 12572
- **Museum of Rhinebeck History** 845/871-1798
618 PO Box Rhinebeck 12572
- **Egbert Benson Historical Society** 645-758-8145

Libraries

- Starr Library 845-876-4030
LOCAL HISTORY ROOM Tu & Th, 10-3
68 W. Market St, Rhinebeck
- Morton Library 845-876-2903
82 Kelly St. Rhinecliff, NY
- Red Hook Library 845-758-3241
37 S. Broadway, Red Hook, NY

Preservation Information

Old House Journal
www.oldhousejournal.com
Preservation League of New York State
www.preservenys.org