The Hudson River Valley is known not only for its natural beauty but its architectural heritage. It was here that architects developed early residential styles, created mountain resorts, and designed spectacular riverside estates. America's first travel guides touted these architectural wonders 150 years ago. The invitation still holds: visit the farmhouses of Dutch and French Huguenot settlers; tour the mansions and grounds along the river; and marvel at the creations of some of the country's greatest 19th-century architects.

**Origins of the Great Estates**
As second- and third-generation colonists became more prosperous, many early landholdings expanded. Frederic Philipse, a Dutch carpenter who emigrated in the 1650s, successfully acquired a large amount of land and two small sites, the Lower Mills in Verplanck and the Upper Mills on the Pocantico River in the village of Sleepy Hollow. The core of Philipse Manor dates back to the 1660s, but its transformation into a country estate began under Frederic Philipse III, who remodeled it into a Georgian-style mansion in the 1760s.

Further up the river, Robert Livingston acquired a royal patent for a vast tract of land in Columbia County, and one of his sons built a Georgian-style country house he named Clermont.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans celebrated their independence through a new style of architecture that attempted to shed the colonial trappings of the past, but they still clung to the neoclassical influence from England. Several important houses were destroyed during the war and rebuilt in the Federal style. In its elegant post-war reincarnation, Clermont established a new standard for the country house and the prominence of the Livingston family. Federal-era mansions, such as Ten Broeck Mansion (1797) in Albany, Brushwood (1864-1871) in Cold Spring, and Locust Lawn (1847) in New Paltz, demonstrated the increasing wealth of the Hudson River Valley.

**Residential Architecture: the Cottage and the Villa**
During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, American architects experimented with a variety of styles, and it was during this period of colonialism that the valley's most influential and enduring houses were created. Summitville, a "cottage" in Tarrytown, and the writer Washington Irving's home in Tarrytown in the 1820s, evokes this romantic spirit, a combination of Dutch, Scottish, and Spanish architecture.

Foremost among professional architects was Asher Benjamin, a New York New Yorker who was a partner in the country's first architectural partnership, Almack and Benjamin. By the 1830s, Benjamin had established himself as a leading architect and manager of a new, cheap "cottage style." He published his first book in 1823, My System of Cottage Architecture, which included "do-it-yourself" church plans. His work was so successful that he published two more books, American Cottage Architecture and American Cottage and Farm Houses. In the 1850s, Benjamin published American Cottage and Farm Houses.

As tastes changed during the 1840s, architects like Davenport and Richard Upjohn evolved a new style of country house, which included "do-it-yourself" church plans. A typical example of his work, St. Luke's Chapel (1837) in Clermont, displays the bell court and ornamental woodwork characteristic of the style, an important contribution to the history of American architecture.

**Carpenter Gothic: an American Church Style**
By mid-century, the romantic ideals of Downing and Davis were common knowledge, and the broad-and-button church had become the national style for Gothic revival church architecture in America. The light and vertical wooden buildings stood in sharp contrast to the heavy stone Gothic structures of England. The architect Richard Upjohn earned a reputation as the most talented designer of broad-and-button churches. Upjohn was so busy that he published his book A New System of Cottage Architecture in 1846. His book was so successful that he published two more books, American Cottage Architecture and American Cottage and Farm Houses.

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Map & Guide Series

Architectural Traditions in the Hudson River Valley

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area is a federally funded program created by Congress in 1984. The mission of the Heritage Area is to recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally significant cultural and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley for the benefit of the nation. The Heritage Area and the National Park Service funded the production of this map and guide. Please send your comments or map revisions to:

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to the region. In the 1860s Davis expanded the mansion with an exquisitely

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Van Cortlandt Manor, South Broadway Dr., Croton-on-Hudson, 914-621-8200, 18th-
century stone manor house and tavern (NHS)

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Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, New York

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century stone manor house and tavern (NHS)

Van Cortlandt Manor, 517 Stuyvesant St., Croton-on-Hudson, 914-621-8200—18th-
century Federal-style townhouse with distinctive white marble

The idea of diminishing the barriers

Van Cortlandt Manor, 575 Stuyvesant St., Croton-on-Hudson, 914-621-7232—19th-century Federal-style townhouse with distinctive white marble

Upper Hudson

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, New York

New York State Capitol, Albany, 518-476-2419—The palatial building is a combina-
tion of popular architectural styles of the

New York State Capitol, Albany, 518-476-2419—The palatial building is a combina-
tion of popular architectural styles of the

James Vanderpoel House, Route 3, Kinderhook, 518-769-8230—19th-century Federal-style mansion with influential design

Lyndhurst, 265 South Broadway, Tarrytown, 914-631-9441—Alexander Jackson Davis’ most famous early work in the valley was the Knoll, a Gothic Revival estate. Completed in 1842, the Knoll introduced a new kind of picturesque architecture

Location: 518-272-7232—19th-century Federal-style townhouse with distinctive white marble

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