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.

Dutch, Huguenot Influences

The houses built by Dutch colonists during the 17th and early 18th centuries are the only examples of Dutch architecture in North America. Furnishings, such as Peter Bronck’s Dutch rectory (1663) in Crotona, feature distinctive pitch roofs with gable ends, prominent roof dormers, and chimneys. After the English took charge of the colony in 1664, Dutch building traditions continued and can still be seen at the Maiden’s Bluff Homestead (1793) in Beacon and the Lydia Van Sluys House (1707) in Kinderhook.

The French Huguenots who emigrated to the Hudson Valley included the Berdell family, which built a handsome brick dwelling in the 17th century in the hamlet of North Tarrytown. The Frenchquia family, who owned a large orchard at the eastern end of Tarrytown, built a large house in the 18th century that was later converted into a tavern and served as a meeting place for American Revolutionists. The Frenchqua family also built the Frenchqua Mansion, now the Frenchqua Tavern, located on the historic route 9P.

The Netherlands and the English

When New Netherland became the British colony of New York, the Dutch influence began to wane. However, the Dutch Reformed Church in Newburgh was completed in 1728, shortly after the English took over. It was through the commission for this new church that Alexander Jackson Davis, a young architect, was introduced to the world of residential architecture. He later designed numerous examples of the Dutch Revival style, including the Bevier-Elting House on Huguenot Street in New Paltz.

American architects experimented with a variety of styles during the 18th and 19th centuries, but none were more influential than the Dutch Revival style. This style was characterized by its use of gable roofs, dormers, and chimneys, as well as its emphasis on symmetry and proportion. The Dutch Revival style was widely adopted throughout the country, and its influence can still be seen today in many buildings throughout the Hudson Valley.

Carpenter Gothic:

As Gothic Revival enjoyed a resurgence in popularity during the 1840s and 1850s, American architects began experimenting with a new style called Carpenter Gothic. This style was named after its creator, Ebenezer Denison Carpenter, who published a book called The Architecture of Country Houses in 1845. Carpenter Gothic was characterized by its use of heavy stone Gothic structures, such as the St. Luke’s Chapel in Clermont, which was designed by Calvert Vaux and Robert Weir Schurz.

The next generation of prominent Hudson Valley families called on the New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White to remodel their homes, including the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park. Frederick Law Olmsted was called upon to design the innovative hospital grounds. The firm of Richard Morris Hunt designed the Stick House on the Hudson River, a country house that featured a mix of Gothic and classical elements.

The Hudson River Valley

The Hudson River Valley is known for its natural beauty and 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.

Tuscott House, New Mountain State Park

The Tuscott House is a historic building located in the New Mountain State Park. It was built in 1857 as a summer residence for a New York City businessman named Thomas Tuscott. The house is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture and features a large porch with columns.

As it was one of the first structures to be built in the New Mountain State Park, the Tuscott House played an important role in the development of the park. It was later donated to the state and remains an important historic site in the Hudson Valley.
Upper Hudson

New York State Capitol, Albany, 518-474-2419—The palatial building is a combination of popular architectural styles of the period, including French Renaissance. Three prominent designers—l'Enfant, Henry I. Richardson, and Isaac Perry—designed the original architectural scheme. Over three decades of construction, the building suffered from financial and political difficulties and the struggles of architectural collaboration. Richardson, with his assistant Stanford White, designed the restored Senate Chamber. The result was a magnificent interior that Richardson described as representing "sensibility and quietness." (NHL)

Albany City Hall, 42 Eagle St., Albany, 518-432-3000—Gothic revival church designed by Richard Upjohn in 1833 (NHL)

St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church, 107 South St., Albany, 518-434-0054—Gothic revival church designed by Richard Upjohn in 1895 (NHL)


Ten Broeck Mansion, 3 Ten Broeck Place, Albany, 518-434-9622—19th-century federal style home of General Abraham Ten Broeck

Mid-Hudson

St. Luke's Chapel, U.S. 9 (Old Post Rd.), Clermont—18th-century Dutch and Baltic church designed by Richard Upjohn

Clermont, One Clermont Ave., Germantown, 518-577-0426—18th-century home, with 1853 additions by Michael O'Connor, of uneven proportions, one of the least known of the Upland family (NHL)

Montgomery Place, built onMontgomery Place, 845-765-1646—A Federal-style mansion dating back to 1805. Montgomery Place was transformed by Alexander Jackson Davis in the 1840s and further altered in 1883 in the neo-classical style. The house features an exterior coating of richly detailed ornament. Davis also designed outbuildings in the neo-classical, gothic revival, and "Tuscan" styles. The landscape design was influenced by Andrew Jackson Downing, who contributed extensive advice on the gardens as well as plans from his Newburgh nursery (NHL)

Wildermuth, 907 Milton Rd., Wilderholt, 845-875-4818—Thomas Talbott commissioned John Culler to design this house as a farmstead in the 1830s. This three-door wide Greek Revival house was built high on a hill. A short time later, John Culler hired Robert Hare to remodel it in a contemporary Queen Anne style. The result is a unique house with an additional floor, several fireplaces, circular tower, and elaborate interiors by Joseph Bum Fitzsimons as well as landscape by Calvert Vaux. Wildermuth was the home of Margaret "Daisy" Buckley, distant cousin of Theodore Roosevelt (NHL)

Stockbridge Mill Mansion, Old Post Rd., Stockbridge, 413-298-3185—19th-century mansion designed by Stanford White for Ogden NHs

Vanderbilt Mansion (Hyde Park), U.S. 9, north of the village of Hyde Park, 1-800-FDVT-5557—This country house and its associated landscapes was built by a combination of the research done on Lake Mohonk in the Shawangunks by Andrew Jackson Davis, to assist him in turning an existing Federal style house into a "Tuscan" villa with dramatic views of the river (NHL)

Mohonk Mountain House, 1000 Mountain Rd., New Paltz, 845-255-1900—Mountain resort established in the 1870s on Lake Mohonk in the Shawangunk Mountains (NHL)

Huguenot Street, New Paltz, 845-255-1900—Arguably the oldest continually inhabited street in America (NHL)

Hudson Valley National Heritage Area

The Hudson Valley National Heritage Area is a federally funded program created by Congress in 1994. The mission of the Heritage Area is to recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally significant cultural and natural resources of the Hudson 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:

New York State Capitol
518-474-2419
1224 State Street
Albany, NY 12224

tour@hvnet.org
www.hudsonvalleynpa.org

Map Guide Series

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Adirondack Park

S C E N E S FROM THE HUDSON VALLEY

Map Scene

Coloring Hints

Map & Guide Series

Architectural Traditions in the Hudson River Valley

Hudson Valley National Heritage Area, New York

John Church, 171 High Street, Tarrytown, 914-354-2551—The earliest uniquely American residence, built about 1717 (NHL)

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

Kykuit, U.S. 9, Sleepy Hollow, 914-621-4311—The most significant extant Gothic Revival house in America (NHL)

Washington Irving's Sunnyside, West Sunnyside Lane, U.S. 9, Tarrytown, 914-621-8200—The house, inspired by "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," contains an American Gothic Revival interior designed by architect H.H. Richardson (NHL)

Philipse Manor Hall, 29 Warburton Ave., (at St. John St.), 914-737-4057—This Anglo-Dutch Baroque house, constructed in three phases between the 18th and 19th centuries, bears a number of Stuart and Jacobean elements that are rare in the 18th century. The Manor House was frequented by George Washington and was an inspiration for his Mount Vernon (NHL)

HVS = National Historic Site

NHS = National Historic Landmark

New York State Capitol, Albany, 518-474-2419—The palatial building is a combination of popular architectural styles of the period, including French Renaissance. Three prominent designers—l'Enfant, Henry I. Richardson, and Isaac Perry—designed the original architectural scheme. Over three decades of construction, the building suffered from financial and political difficulties and the struggles of architectural collaboration. Richardson, with his assistant Stanford White, designed the restored Senate Chamber. The result was a magnificent interior that Richardson described as representing "sensibility and quietness." (NHL)

Albany City Hall, 42 Eagle St., Albany, 518-432-3000—Gothic revival church designed by Richard Upjohn in 1833 (NHL)

St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church, 107 South St., Albany, 518-434-0054—Gothic revival church designed by Richard Upjohn in 1895 (NHL)


Ten Broeck Mansion, 3 Ten Broeck Place, Albany, 518-434-9622—19th-century federal style home of General Abraham Ten Broeck

Clermont, One Clermont Ave., Germantown, 518-577-0426—18th-century home, with 1853 additions by Michael O'Connor, of uneven proportions, one of the least known of the Upland family (NHL)

Montgomery Place, built on Montgomery Place, 845-765-1646—A Federal-style mansion dating back to 1805. Montgomery Place was transformed by Alexander Jackson Davis in the 1840s and further altered in 1883 in the neo-classical style. The house features an exterior coating of richly detailed ornament. Davis also designed outbuildings in the neo-classical, gothic revival, and "Tuscan" styles. The landscape design was influenced by Andrew Jackson Downing, who contributed extensive advice on the gardens as well as plans from his Newburgh nursery (NHL)

Wildermuth, 907 Milton Rd., Wilderholt, 845-875-4818—Thomas Talbott commissioned John Culler to design this house as a farmstead in the 1830s. This three-door wide Greek Revival house was built high on a hill. A short time later, John Culler hired Robert Hare to remodel it in a contemporary Queen Anne style. The result is a unique house with an additional floor, several fireplaces, circular tower, and elaborate interiors by Joseph Bum Fitzsimons as well as landscape by Calvert Vaux. Wildermuth was the home of Margaret "Daisy" Buckley, distant cousin of Theodore Roosevelt (NHL)

Stockbridge Mill Mansion, Old Post Rd., Stockbridge, 413-298-3185—19th-century mansion designed by Stanford White for Ogden NHs

Vanderbilt Mansion (Hyde Park), U.S. 9, north of the village of Hyde Park, 1-800-FDVT-5557—This country house and its associated landscapes was built by a combination of the research done on Lake Mohonk in the Shawangunks by Andrew Jackson Davis, to assist him in turning an existing Federal style house into a "Tuscan" villa with dramatic views of the river (NHL)

Mohonk Mountain House, 1000 Mountain Rd., New Paltz, 845-255-1900—Mountain resort established in the 1870s on Lake Mohonk in the Shawangunk Mountains (NHL)

Huguenot Street, New Paltz, 845-255-1900—Arguably the oldest continually inhabited street in America (NHL)

John Church, 171 High Street, Tarrytown, 914-354-2551—The earliest uniquely American residence, built about 1717 (NHL)

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

Kykuit, U.S. 9, Sleepy Hollow, 914-621-4311—The most significant extant Gothic Revival house in America (NHL)

Washington Irving's Sunnyside, West Sunnyside Lane, U.S. 9, Tarrytown, 914-621-8200—The house, inspired by "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," contains an American Gothic Revival interior designed by architect H.H. Richardson (NHL)

Philipse Manor Hall, 29 Warburton Ave., (at St. John St.), 914-737-4057—This Anglo-Dutch Baroque house, constructed in three phases between the 18th and 19th centuries, bears a number of Stuart and Jacobean elements that are rare in the 18th century. The Manor House was frequented by George Washington and was an inspiration for his Mount Vernon (NHL)