



SCROLL DOWN FOR KEY TO LOCATIONS.....



1. Mill House. Prior to 1820.

The miller for the Grist Mill lived here. On October 21, 1810, the first Episcopal service in the village was held in this house, then owned by Charles Pierson. Now it serves as the office and entrance point of the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve. The 100-foot Rensselaerville Falls are just a short stroll from here.



3. Mulford Store. Early 1800s.

The only building in the hamlet to retain the original storefront facade, it has been a store for most of its existence, often with the storekeeper living on the upper floors. General stores here were owned by Charles L. Mulford (early 1800s), and William Magivny and his brother-in-law John L. Rice (mid-1800s). During the early 1900s Lewis Becker ran an ice cream shop here. Among artists, booksellers, crafters and art gallery owners operating here were Betty Jane Rice Roth, Kenzo Okada, Nick Gallo, Richard Prince and Alberto Caputo.



4. Mill Cottage. 1800.

Altered extensively over the years, this is the third house built by Samuel Jenkins, the hamlet's first settler. The first two burned down. They were a log house built here in 1788 and the first frame house in the village which was located between here and what is now the E. N. Huyck Preserve office (#1). Jenkins lived in this house until 1812 when his son Jonathan built the "Jenkins Homestead" (see #22).



6. Watson House. 1809.

Built for Rufus Watson by Ephraim Russ, this was operated as an inn during most of the 19th century, owned first by Watson and later by Caleb Tompkins. During the 20th and 21st centuries it has been owned by the Stevens family and their descendants Wilson and McChesney who were related to Jessie Van Antwerp (Mrs. Edmund Niles Huyck). The 12/12 window sashes are original. Note similarity to Jenkins Homestead (#22).

5. Colvard House. ca. 1804.

Built as an inn by Asa Colvard, one of our first settlers. He was related by marriage to the Hutchinsons, Mulfords, Daytons and Conklings. Renovated and dormers and two-story porch with outside staircase added in 1922 by Edmund Niles Huyck with architect Norman R. Sturgis.



7. Catalpa House. 1806.

Franklin Frisbee built this as a multi-purpose structure to house a store, a ballroom, a tavern, offices and residence space for the family. The Dr. Platt Wickes family lived here in the 1840s. The Victorian trim, double doorway and decorative porch were added in the 1880s. From 1922 Edith Lounsbury operated it for 50 years as a boarding house. Subsequent owners converted it to a bed and breakfast and made other renovations.

8. Frisbee House. 1790-91.

Built by Franklin Frisbee's father, Dr. Reuben Frisbee, our first physician, this house originally occupied what is now the front lawn of the Catalpa House. It was moved across the street, near the corner, where this small gray structure still stands, the second oldest house in the village.



9. The Manse. 1827.

Built by Franklin Frisbee for Judge John Niles, this house was probably the first in the village with a porch -- added ca. 1860. The small wing to the north was the judge's law office, and served as headquarters for the militia during the anti-rent wars. Known as "The Manse" since 1904 when Niles heirs gave it to the Presbyterian Church. The Jarvis House, which is across the road, was also built by Franklin Frisbee. It was purchased by Mark Golden in 1896 and has been owned by Golden descendants for over a century.



10. Baptist Church. 1836.

This Ephraim Russ church faced the plank road that ran south to Main Street. Eventually in the 1900s a road was built connecting the village to Albany (NYS Rt. 85). The Baptist Church was closed in 1959 and sold to Raphael and Frances Simches who converted it into a private residence and ceramic studio. In the 1980s George and Hedda Elk operated an antique store on the ground floor and lived on the second floor. It is now once again a private residence.



11. Bell's Hotel. 1818.

Built as an inn by early settler Apollos Moore on a lot that in 1788 was the site of a log house belonging to Hans Winegar. Following Moore's death in 1846, the inn was enlarged. Acquired by Chauncey Bell in 1866, it became known as "Bell's Hotel". In the 1960s it was renamed "The Village Inn" and altered extensively by owner Richard Brock. Restored by Edith and Bob Lansing as a bed and breakfast in 1998-99 and renamed "Bell's Hotel".



12. Palmer House. 1848.

Ca. 1801 Dr. John and Peter Frisbee built a smaller house here, which was subsequently moved back, and a larger building added on to the front for an inn. Later an upstairs ballroom and a store were attached. Innkeepers included Joshua Aley and Asa Palmer. The John L. Rice (1823-1895) family and descendants lived here and ran a general store for over 100 years until 1965 in the portion which is now The Palmer House Cafe and Tavern (see hours and days of operation posted at the door). In 1986 the former ballroom, woodshed and inn sections were converted to apartments. The Cafe's name honors Potter Hollow native Potter Palmer who built the world-famous Palmer House Hotel in Chicago and began the dry goods business that became Marshall Field. Local legend says he was associated with the local inn at one time.



13. Hyde House (cover). ca. 1796.
Originally a smaller house, it was enlarged by Dr. Isaac Hyde to serve as a home and hospital. Later owned by storekeeper John S. Huyck and then by his son, Francis Conkling Huyck, Sr., who added the large Ionic columns. This is the home where Edmund Niles Huyck and his siblings grew up. California descendants of the Niles family, the Fred Searls, Jr. family, owned the house from 1937 until the 1970s. This house is known for its beautiful stone walls and gardens.



14. Conkling Hall. 1839.
Built by Ephraim Russ as a Methodist Church. When the membership declined in 1905, the building was purchased by Francis Conkling Huyck, Sr., renamed "Conkling Hall" and converted for community use. Beginning in 1939, the building housed the fire company. It was a private residence from 1984 to 1999 and is owned now by the Presbyterian Church as a community resource once again for plays, dances and public events. The large classical paintings that still hang in the Hall were painted by Dr. Platt Wickes' granddaughter.

15. Presbyterian Church. 1842.
This outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture was the last building completed by Ephraim Russ, and is a departure from his usual simplicity. Though built of wood, it has the appearance of stone with flush boarding on the front facade, full pilasters, Doric columns, heavy steeple cornices, and quoins in the first tier of the steeple. It is open in summers with an ecumenical mix of guest ministers. The oldest congregation in the hamlet, the Presbyterians organized in 1792 at Mt. Pisgah (known now as "Kropp's Hill"), two miles southwest, and built their first church there in 1796. In 1815 they relocated to the west end of the village (adjacent to where the post office is now). After Russ' new church was completed, the old church building became the Rensselaerville Academy in 1844.



16. Hutchinson House. 1823.
Built by Ephraim Russ for Eli Hutchinson of East Hampton, L.I., one of the first settlers, a merchant, and our first postmaster. The flush boarding on the gabled end suggests stone construction in the Greek style. Other owners included James Rider and Charles Waldron.

17. Daniel Conkling Farm. 1806.
(not shown). Ephraim Russ was given a free hand to build this mansion. It was renovated 90 years later as a wedding present for Elizabeth Moore Huyck Eldridge from her father, Francis Conkling Huyck, Sr. In 2012, Roy and Stewart Myers, descendants of Daniel Conkling's son David, purchased the property and launched an extensive restoration. Most of the 300 acres will remain "Open Spaces" forever.



18. Trinity Episcopal Church. 1815.
Built by Ephraim Russ, it is the first of four churches he built in the village and still offers Sunday services year-round. The church was founded in 1810 by Rev. Samuel Fuller who then served it for 30 years. Rev. Fuller converted to Episcopalianism after serving the Presbyterian Church for 16 years as its first minister.

19. Creamery.
Operated as such until 1940. Brock Sployd ran the creamery in the early 1900s. It is now a private residence.

20. Stone House. ca. 1850.
Built by George Dean, it is the only stone house in the village. It was restored from a shell in 1938-'39 by Hugh Flick. Mary Brewerton Hedges, ward of Rev. Samuel Fuller, lived here in the 1870s when she was editor of "The Rensselaerville Press".



21. Gurdon Conkling House. 1825.
Designed and built by Ephraim Russ. Note unusual three-column portico. It was occupied for many years by Brock Sployd who operated a creamery across the street. (See #19.) Other owners included J. T. Conklin in the 1860s, Dr. Huntington Williams who named the place "Quaint Acres" and Mrs. Henry Ridgley in the 1960s.

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22. Jenkins Homestead. 1812.

Built by Ephraim Russ for Jonathan Jenkins, son of the village's first settler. It is the only house continuously owned by descendants of the original owner over 200 years ago. Except for changing the 24-pane Palladian window to 12 panes, little has been altered, inside or out. Note similarity to Watson House (#6).

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23. Library. ca. 1820.

One of the original row houses built on the bank, this was William Felter's boot shop in the 1800s. In 1896 the Felters let it be used as a public "Reading Room" and in 1906 F. C. Huyck, Sr. purchased and renovated the building. Huyck and his heirs supported the library's operation until 1935 when F. C. Huyck, Jr. and his wife Laura Talmage Huyck donated the building to be a community library. In 1995 the library expanded into the former Vivian Borthwick house next door, naming it the Ann Ballinger Annex.

24. Bank or Row Houses, ca. 1820.

These attached houses were once the "business district" but now are private residences. The original store fronts all have been altered. Most are two stories high in front and three to five stories in back, due to sharp slope down toward Ten Mile Creek.

25. Middle Mill Cottage. 1803.

One of the earliest and least-altered houses in the village, it is set on bedrock. At one time, the miller for the Grist Mill lived in this house. Enclosed by stone and earth, the basement level was the main living area in winter. The kitchen and brick oven located in the basement had to be accessed through a trap door in the living room.



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26. Grist Mill. 1880.

Samuel Jenkins built the first mill in the village at this site in 1788-9. It was destroyed by fire in 1879 and the present mill was built in 1880 by George L. Bouton and F. C. Huyck, Sr. Now owned by the Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society, the Mill, historical exhibits and Research Room are open from spring to fall. Hours posted at door.