

SCENIC DRIVING TOURS

# Directory



Check out our internet site at [www.DutchessTourism.com](http://www.DutchessTourism.com)

**Tour 1 . . . . . 6**



Explores the towns of Rhinebeck, Red Hook, and Milan. Rhinebeck boasts 35 miles of meadowland, small streams, and wooded hills with lovely mountain vistas. Tradition holds that Red Hook was named by Henry Hudson's crew in 1509 for a hook-like configuration of land near where they anchored, covered by red foliage at that time of year. Milan, a rural and sparsely populated town, offers some of the most beautiful roads and scenic views found here.

**Tour 2 . . . . . 12**



Winds through the towns of Pine Plains, Northeast, Washington and Stanford. Pine Plains is the site of what may have been the country's first Christian congregation of Native Americans, ca. 1742. The Town of Northeast, dating back to 1788, is where the quaint Village of Millerton is found. With farming its oldest industry, Stanford attracts visitors to its markets, ranches and wineries. The Town of Washington, named for General George Washington, hosted Revolutionary troops and Quaker meetings and schools.

**Tour 3 . . . . . 18**



Leads the traveler through the towns of Hyde Park, Clinton, and Pleasant Valley. In Hyde Park, Franklin D. Roosevelt made his life-long home. Clinton, named for New York's first governor, was settled in the early 1700s by New England Quakers. Mill sites along the little Wappinger Creek and the crossroad enterprises became the core of early hamlets. And in Pleasant Valley, a plank turnpike between

Connecticut and Poughkeepsie provided farmers a route to Hudson River markets. The Wappinger Creek wanders among the town's low hills.

**Tour 4 . . . . . 24**



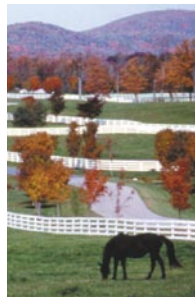
Takes you through another part of the Town of Washington, this time leading eastward through the center of the Village of Millbrook, the hub of local government. Fertile soils in this area provide an agricultural home to both Cornell Cooperative Extension/Farm and Home Center and the Institute of Ecosystem Studies. The Town of Amenia, named by Dr. Thomas Young, a poet, is from the Latin "Amoena," meaning pleasant place. It is the site of the annual World Peace Festival and home to Troutbeck, the former Spingarn Estate that hosted the first meeting of the NAACP.

**Tour 5 . . . . . 28**



Encompasses the City and Town of Poughkeepsie and the Town of LaGrange. The tour begins north of the city and winds into the town past the remaining farms and orchard of LaGrange. The City of Poughkeepsie courthouse, center of state government during the Revolutionary War, was the site of New York's ratification of the US Constitution in 1788. The Town of Poughkeepsie is best known today as the home of IBM and Vassar College. Called "Freedom" when formed as a town in 1821, LaGrange was renamed in 1829 by enthusiastic patriots in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette's farm in France.

**Tour 6 . . . . . 34**



Takes you on a journey through the towns of Union Vale, Beekman, Pawling and Dover. The tour begins in Union Vale, best noted for its Clove, a beautiful, narrow valley, then winds through Beekman, with its charming, old farm houses. The Town of Pawling, dating back to 1788, was home to newsmen Edward R. Murrow and Lowell Thomas, and the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale. Dover, encompassing the hamlets of Dover Plains and Wingdale, was a stopover for New England cattle "drovers" on the way through the Harlem Valley.

**Tour 7 . . . . . 40**



Explores the towns of Wappinger, Fishkill, East Fishkill and the City of Beacon. The tour begins in the hamlet of New Hackensack, which was settled by Dutch farmers from New Jersey around 1750. It winds through the Village of Wappingers Falls, then south to Stony Kill and Mount Gulian, to Beacon, with vistas of the Fishkill Range and Mount Beacon. The tour encompasses the numerous historic sites clustered around the area of Fishkill and provides a view into the historic past of southern Dutchess County.

# Exploring Dutchess County

*Exploring the Hudson Valley and our own Dutchess County has been a high point in the travel of visitors for centuries. Countless writers, artists and historians have found in our scenic and historic riches the inspiration for great works of art and literature.*

*Much of the adventure and fuel for creative thought that earlier explorers and travelers sought can be found by anyone in shorter trips along our historic and scenic byways.*

**Co-Sponsors:** *The Dutchess County Tourism Promotion Agency is grateful for the support of the co-sponsors of our Scenic and Historic Drive Tour Guide. Each business is spotlighted on the map of the appropriate drive tour and highlighted within the tour. We encourage you to patronize these businesses during your visit to Dutchess County.*

*A few words of caution and some directions will ensure a safe journey. Please respect private property and observe traffic and speed limit regulations. Tour times are approximate. Mileage is given between intersections. Pay particular attention to CR signs and street names in the directions along with mileages between the turns. Your trip meter should be reset to "0" at each direction change. Dutchess County Tourism Promotion Agency trailblazer signs and state markers are visible along routes, however they are limited. Visitors are urged to heed the tour directions and maps. Individual attraction signs and local markers also serve as directionals.*

**Directions are in bold.** *Mileage is given in miles and tenths of miles. In some tours the green type signifies an area where you may want to park your car and walk to see various sites. Allow extra time.*

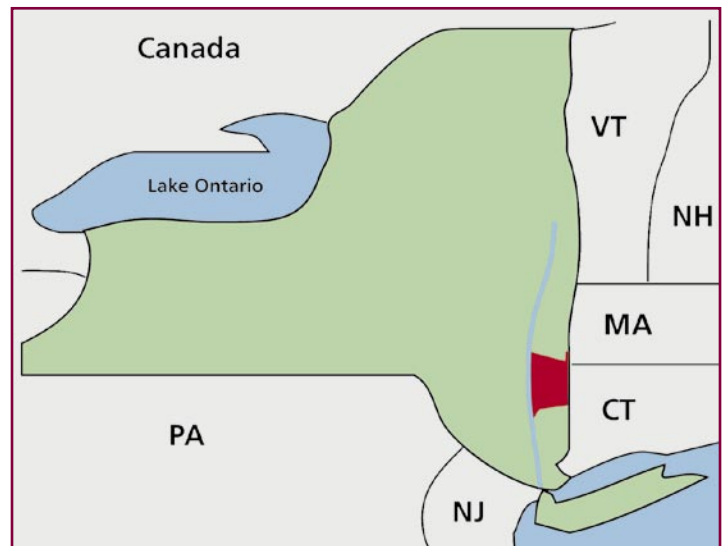
**All tour directions use the following abbreviations:**

- **CR** for County Route
- **L** for left
- **?** for information
- **NR** for National Register listed sites
- **R** for right
- **PVT** for private property
- **I** or **Y** for intersections

*Because basic tours take several hours each, we suggest return visits to explore these additional sites. Dutchess County Travel Guides and county brochures are available at Tourist Information Centers county-wide.*

*Telephone numbers in Dutchess County are primarily in the 845 area code, with the exception of Millerton and Pine Plains, where some numbers are in the 518 area.*

*Where the map indicates "START" set your trip meter at "0" and begin. (Note that individual trip meters may vary slightly from mileage indicated.)*



# Getting Here

**From New York City:** Follow signs from the Henry Hudson Pkwy. to the Sawmill River Pkwy. to the Taconic Pkwy. north. Exit at Rt. 52 or 55 east or west. Or, take I-87 north (New York State Thwy.) to Exit 17 at Newburgh to I-84 east to Rt. 9 north. Or, continue east on I-84 to the Taconic Pkwy. north. Or, continue east on I-84 to Rt. 22 north.

**From Long Island:** Cross the Whitestone Bridge to the Hutchinson River Pkwy. Take the Hutchinson to I-684 north to Rt. 22 north. Or, take I-684 north to I-84 west to the Taconic Pkwy. north. Or, continue west on I-84 to Rt. 9 north.

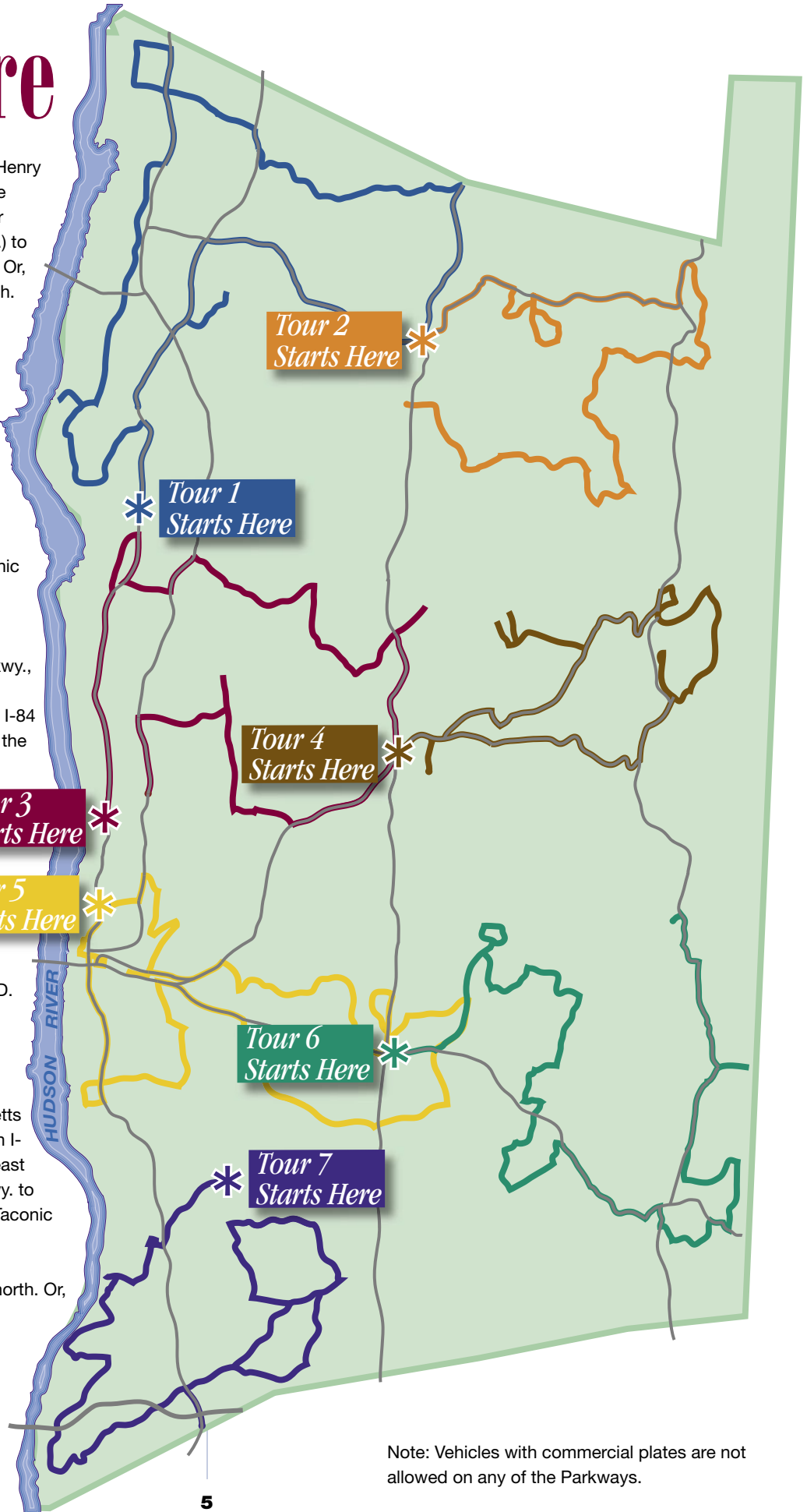
**From Connecticut:** Follow I-84 west to Rt. 22 north. Or, continue west on I-84 to the Taconic Pkwy. north. Or, continue west on I-84 to Rt. 9 north.

**From New Jersey:** Take the Garden State Pkwy., the Palisades Pkwy., or Rt. 17 to the New York State Thwy. north. Take Exit 17 at Newburgh to I-84 east to Rt. 9 north. Or, continue east on I-84 to the Taconic Pkwy. north. Or, continue east on I-84 to Rt. 22 north.

**From Albany:** Take the New York State Thwy. south to Exit 19 and follow signs to cross the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge. Or, continue south on the New York State Thwy. to Exit 18. Take Exit 18 at New Paltz to Rt. 299 east to Rt. 9W south to cross the Franklin D. Roosevelt Mid-Hudson Bridge, Rt. 44/55 east. Or, take Rt. 9 north or south after crossing the Franklin D. Roosevelt Mid-Hudson Bridge.

**From Massachusetts:** Take the Massachusetts Tnpk./I-90 to Rt. 22 south. Or, continue west on I-90 to the Taconic Pkwy. south. Exit at Rt. 199 east or west. Or, continue south on the Taconic Pkwy. to Rt. 44 east or west. Or, continue south on the Taconic Pkwy. to Rt. 55 east or west.

**From Pennsylvania:** Take I-84 east to Rt. 9 north. Or, continue east on I-84 to the Taconic Pkwy. north, exit at Rt. 55 east or west. Or, continue east on I-84 to Rt. 22 north.



Note: Vehicles with commercial plates are not allowed on any of the Parkways.

# TOUR 4



Allyn's Restaurant



Silo Ridge Country Club

## Welcome to Washington and Amenia

**WASHINGTON**, est. in 1788, at 61.47 sq. mi. is the largest in area of Dutchess' 20 towns. Named to honor Gen. Washington, unsupported local legend pictures his Revolutionary troops encamped under a huge cottonwood tree near Washington Hollow during the war. Before the end of the 19th c. history records peaceful New England Quakers organizing meetings and schools here. In the 19th c. town streams supplied the power for local mills. Its rolling hills, commanding beautiful views of the Hudson Valley, attracted the wealthy and prominent to build estates and encouraged tourism. Fertile soils and an important role in the breeding of horses and Aberdeen Angus cattle make it an agricultural center and home to both Cornell Cooperative Extension/Farm and Home Center and the IES Cary Arboretum. The Village of Millbrook, a 19th c. railroad center, is now the hub of local government, business and culture. Other hamlets are South Millbrook, Lithgow, Little Rest, Washington Hollow and Mabbettsville.

**AMENIA**, one of Dutchess' first 9 towns, is said to have been named by Dr. Thomas Young, a poet, from the Latin, "Amoena," meaning "pleasant place." It was known locally in the 19th c. as "the milky way" for its many dairies. The first settler, sea capt. Richard Sackett, petitioned the crown for permission to purchase 7,500 acres near Washiac (Wassaic) in 1703. Palatines from Germany, French Huguenots and New Englanders seeking land and religious freedom were its earliest families. Settlements grew in the 19th c. spurred by travel along the Harlem Valley by road and rail. A 19th c. economy based upon iron and agriculture gave way in the 20th c. to state services, soil mining and a new wave of agriculture, including animal breeding and viticulture. In the early 20th c. revolutionary thinkers like Luther Burbank, W.E.B. DuBois and Lewis Mumford gathered at the Spingarn Estate, now "Troutbeck". Today Amenia annually hosts a World Peace Festival. Amenia hamlet is the center of this 41.10 sq. mi town. Other communities include South Amenia, Amenia Union, Leedsville, Smithfield and Wassaic.

**(52 Miles, 2 Hours) START. ➔**  
**This tour begins at Route 44 East exit off of Taconic Parkway. Drive 1.8 miles to Rt. 44A.**

- 1 CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF DUTCHESS COUNTY (L).** Provides educational programs for youth, adults, families and communities while enhancing the economic, social, agricultural and natural resources of Dutchess County. Call 845/677-3488 for (?)

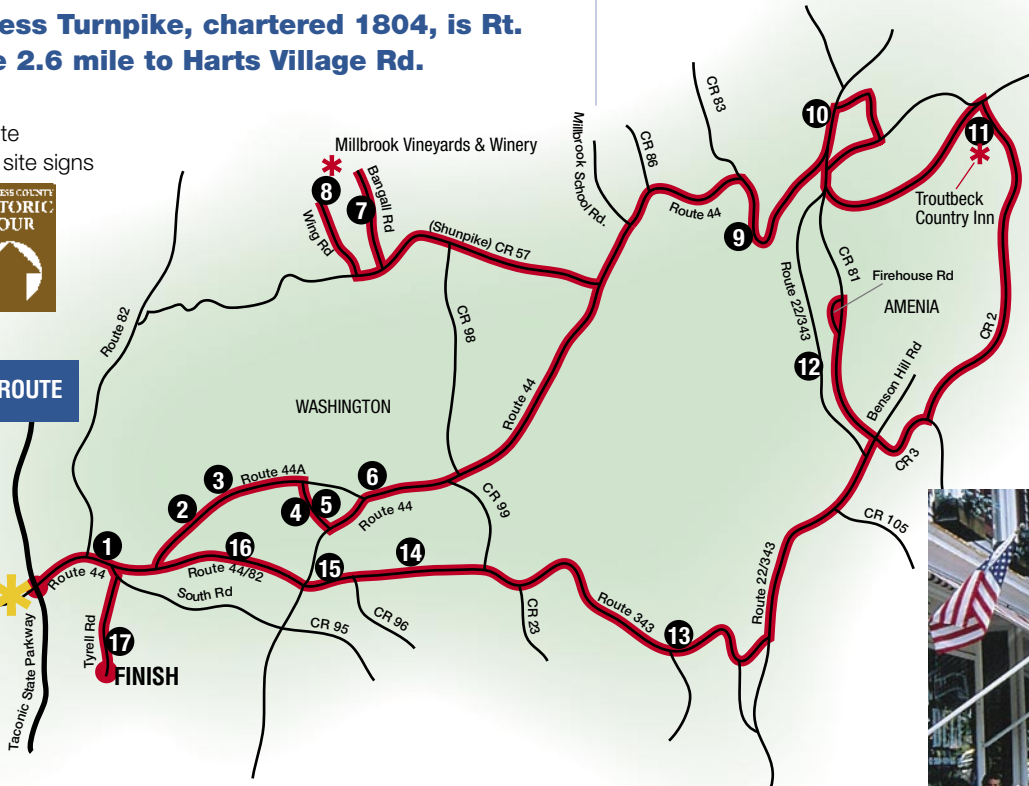
**Turn left on Route 44A. The Sharon Branch of the Dutchess Turnpike, chartered 1804, is Rt. 44A. Drive 2.6 mile to Harts Village Rd.**

Brown and white directional and site signs



**TOUR ROUTE**

**Start Here** \*



- 2 INSTITUTE OF ECOSYSTEM STUDIES (L)** est. 1971 (1924 acres) line the road. Free visitor permits are at Gifford House Visitor and Education Center (L). Nature trails, gardens, exhibits, classes. Call 845/677-5359 for (?)
- 3 ORVIS SANDANONA SHOOTING PRESERVE (L) or (R)** is the oldest permitted shooting club in the US, now used as a venue for the Orvis Shooting and Flyfishing Schools. Call 845/677-9701 for (?)

**Turn right on Harts Village Rd. Drive 0.6 mile to Franklin Ave.**

- 4 HARTS VILLAGE**, named for the Hart family, was the town's economic center until the mid-19th c. Phillip Hart's carefully restored Georgian frame home (R) (NR) (PVT) is set back. The village was the hub of industry powered by water from numerous falls in the deep gorge along Mill Brook. Hart's grist mill, 1755, enlarged by Phillip Hart in 1790, was the first, followed by fulling, dye cutting, saw, cotton and flour mills.

**Turn left on Franklin Ave. Drive 0.8 mile to Rt. 44 East.**

- 5 MILLBROOK VILLAGE** flourished as a result of local businessmen such as George H. Brown, owner of the United States Condensing Co. (est. 1864), who brought in the Newburgh, Dutchess & Columbia RR in 1869. Park in lots or along streets. Tree-lined Franklin Ave. invites strollers to galleries, antique shops, bookstores, restaurants and attractions such as the **TRIBUTE GARDENS (R)**, a gift of Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne, dedicated to WWI and II veterans. The **THORNE BUILDING (L)**, now a branch of Dutchess Community College and intended as a school and cultural center, became the reason for Millbrook's incorporation as a village in 1895, as the donors could only give to a legal municipality. **GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, opposite (R) was est. 1871.



- 6 DANHEIM** (straight ahead), the 2,500 acre former estate of C.F. Deitrich. Its romantic Bavarian-influenced architecture in the 1960s was the dramatic background for the mind-altering activity of Dr. Timothy Leary. Today it is once again a quiet (PVT) country residence.

**Turn right on Rt. 44 East. Drive 4.7 miles to CR 57.**

Route passes through old hamlets. **MABBETTSVILLE** was originally called "Filkintown" for land owner Henry Filkin, one of the Nine Partners Patentees (1697). Note the **TOWN PARK (R)**. **ALLYN'S RESTAURANT AND CAFE (R)**, where fine food and tourist information are available, was originally a Methodist church. Call 845/677-5888 for (?)

Scenic views (L) frame LITHGOW, an 18th c. farm hamlet est. 1760 as the country seat of David Johnstone. Its name was inspired by a family home in Linlithgow, Scotland. It is at the eastern end of the misnamed “SHUNPIKE” from Hibernia. Shunpikes traditionally were developed to avoid toll roads but this 18th c. short cut predates the Dutchess Turnpike.

**Turn left onto CR 57. Drive 3.3 miles to Bangall Rd. Turn right and drive 0.5 mile to Wing’s Castle.**



**7 WING’S CASTLE.** A unique architectural site, this Hudson River stone castle was built by using salvaged materials from antique buildings. Tours available. Call 845/677-9085 for (?).

**Return to CR 57. Turn right on CR 57. Drive 0.5 mile to Wing Rd. Turn right on Wing Rd. to Millbrook Vineyards and Winery.**

**8 MILLBROOK VINEYARDS AND WINERY.** A critically acclaimed 130-acre estate winery. Open year-round, complimentary and informative tours offer an insider’s view of the entire winemaking process. Call 845/677-8383 or 800/662-WINE for (?).

[www.millbrookwine.com](http://www.millbrookwine.com). Take a break from driving with a guided tour and wine tasting. World-class wines paired with amazing views are a treat for all the senses.

**Return to CR 57. Turn left on CR 57 and drive 3.8 miles to Rt. 44 East. Turn left on Rt. 44 East. Drive 4.8 miles to Rt. 22.**

**9 DE LA VERGNE HILL.** A mile-long “S” curve on the turnpike was called the “Devil’s Elbow”, but the scenery is spectacular. At the turn there is a view of 3 states: New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts. SILO-RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB (R), an 18-hole public golf course and restaurant, was developed in 1992 from cornfields and pastures around Squabble Hole, one of two 19th c. ore pits filled with water. (Access from Rt. 22) Call 845/373-9200 (?).

**10 AMENIA.** This unincorporated village, formerly Paine’s Corners, grew at the crossing of the Turnpike, the Great Rd. to NY and the NY & Harlem RR. Park and walk to shops/restaurants at the intersection of Rts. 44 and 22. The 19th c. AMENIA ISLAND CEMETERY (L) on Rt. 343 sits within a lively business hub housed in Victorian commercial buildings. Mechanic St. (R) off of Rt. 343 leads to the Town Hall, the site of the former Harlem RR station and the HARLEM VALLEY RAIL TRAIL (R), that features scenic paved walking, rollerblading, biking and cross-country skiing trails, links towns, villages and state parks from Amenia to Copake Falls in Columbia County. The POST OFFICE (L) building dates to 1865. The Greek Revival former BAPTIST CHURCH on Rt. 22 South, ca. 1851, is now a gift shop (R).

**Turn left on Rt. 22 North. Drive 0.8 mile to Old North Rd.**

The business center is marked by the stone mansard-roofed M & T BANK complete with 1906 fountain/horse trough memorializing Dr. Joseph R. Guernsey. Past the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (R) ca. 1855 congregation est. 1748, is AMENIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (R), built on the site of Amenia Seminary, a private Methodist co-ed secondary school and college, est.1835. Victorian era houses and old trees line the road to new businesses at the village edge.

**Turn right and drive 0.2 mile straight onto Mygatt Rd. Drive 0.7 mile to stop sign at Rt. 343. (Ignore directional sign at this intersection)**

A cast iron “curve warning” sign from a long past highway dept. still serves travelers to negotiate an even older road system that passes stone walls sheltering AMENIA BURYING GROUND (R), ca. 1750, and the shell of a tiny, red one-room INDIAN ROCK SCHOOLHOUSE (L).

**Turn left on Rt. 343 and drive 1.7 miles to CR2. Turn right on Leedsville Rd., CR2.**



**11 TROUTBECK COUNTRY INN (R).** Formerly a gathering place for the literati and liberals of the Twenties, this gentle, upscale 600-acre English estate hosts weddings, conferences and country inn visitors.

[www.troutbeck.com](http://www.troutbeck.com), 845/373-9681. A romantic European country house on the NY/CT border. Site of the 1916 Amenia conference that unified the NAACP. Glorious grounds and gardens, babbling brook, 42 guestrooms, tennis courts.

**Drive 5.1 miles on CR 2 through Amenia-Union, to CR 3.**

Note the 2 story Dutchess Colonial 1760 HENDRICK WINEGAR HOUSE (R). Next on left is the ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH (L), a painted brick Gothic Revival that features Tiffany windows. Past the church is the AMENIA UNION HISTORIC DISTRICT that encircles HITCHCOCK CORNERS, a 19th c. crossroads straddling the Connecticut border.

**Go straight on CR 3. Drive 1.0 mile to CR 81. Go straight on CR 81. Drive 1.0 mile to Firehouse Rd. Turn left on Firehouse Rd. Drive 0.3 mile to CR 81.**

WASSAIC HAMLET at the northern edge of Harlem Valley was a major industrial hamlet and a center of the dairy industry, where, in 1853 Gail Borden opened the nation's first plant for condensing, pasteurizing and bottling milk. MAXON MILLS (R) is built around a 19th c. hotel near the RR line beyond. The red brick BORDEN COMPLEX, now PAWLING CORP. (R), is near WORKER ROW HOUSING (R). South of the hamlet was a Revolutionary War steel works along the Wassaic Creek near the turn.

**Turn right on CR 81. Drive 0.8 mile. Turn right at (I) of CR 81 and CR 3, continuing on CR 81. Drive 0.3 mile to Rts. 22/343 South. Turn left to Rts. 22/343 South. Drive 2.9 miles to Rt. 343.**

**12 WASSAIC STATE FOREST MULTIPLE USE AREA (L)** parallels the route offering 488 acres for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping. Former WASSAIC DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER (L), est. during the Depression Era as a state training center for the mentally disabled, housed up to 3500. \*(Off route) The World Peace Center, site of a folk/peace festival, is on CR 4, off CR 105 behind the Developmental Center. This area, known locally as "Sinpatch", references behavior of 19th c. residents.

**Bear right on Rt. 343 to Millbrook. Drive 9.8 miles to Tyrell Rd.**

Dover Turnpike, Rt. 343, leading over the Fishkill range, was a branch of the Dutchess Turnpike, a toll road.

**13 DUTCHESS DAY SCHOOL (R).** founded in the 1950s by a group of parents interested in offering their children the advantages of a small-school environment in the Millbrook area.

**14 NINE PARTNERS SCHOOL & MEETING HOUSE (R) (NR)** (Marker), est. 1780, (cemetery along Church St.) was the site of Orthodox and Hicksite Quaker "Separation" (1828). This area, called Mechanic, was settled ca. 1750 by Quakers who organized the Meeting. East of the Meeting House was Nine Partners School, the first Quaker co-ed boarding school in America, est. 1796, an ancestor of Oakwood School in Poughkeepsie. The MILLBROOK GOLF AND TENNIS CLUB (PVT) is site of WILLETS ACADEMY (R), where distinguished Quaker educators, Jacob and Deborah Willets, taught.

**15 FLAGLER MONUMENT,** the gift of estate owner Harry Harkness Flagler. HALCYON HALL (R), a late 19th c. resort, became the main building of Bennett School, est. 1907 as a women's junior college and closed in the 1970s.

**16 THORNDALE (R) (PVT)** ca. 1848, noted for its gardens, is owned by descendants of Isaac Thorne, a Quaker who settled here ca. 1725.

**Turn left on Tyrell Rd. Drive 0.4 mile to stop sign. Bear slight left and quick right, continuing on Tyrell Rd. Drive 0.8 mile to entrance of Innisfree Garden.**

**17 INNISFREE GARDEN.** A unique contribution to garden art featuring design influenced by a Chinese style dating back 1,000 years. There is a 40-acre lake surrounded by cliffs, low hills, waterfalls and streams. Call 845/677-8000 for (?).

**Turn around and drive 1.2 miles back to Rt. 44. Turn left on Rt. 44 and drive 1.6 miles to entrance to Taconic Parkway.**

**End of Tour**



Innisfree Garden