

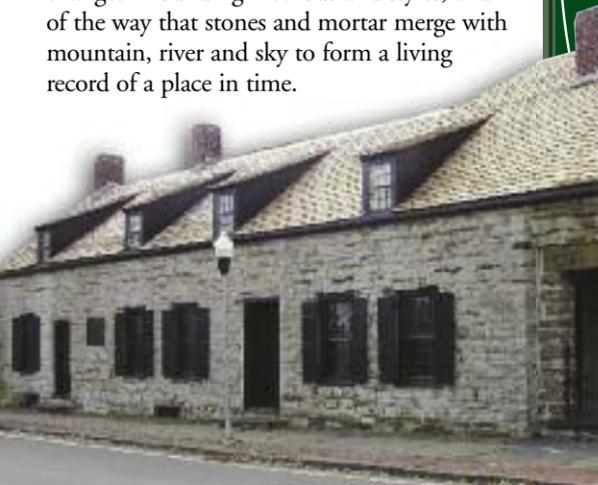
The Buildings

In 1652, an English carpenter, Thomas Chambers, and Dutch settlers joined the local inhabitants, Indians of the Delaware nation, in farming on the rich lands along the Esopus Creek, 100 miles north of Manhattan. The settlement was named Wiltwyck ("Wild Woods") by the Dutch-speaking settlers.

The first buildings were crude, temporary, and scattered. After skirmishes with the Esopus Indians, Peter Stuyvesant brought soldiers up from Manhattan to build a stockade fence and ordered the settlers to live within it. Over time, they built houses in a style similar to their homeland, using the local gray-white limestone. The village was renamed Kingston.

In 1777, after Kingston became the first capital of the new State of New York, the British punished its citizens by setting their houses on fire. The stone houses were rebuilt; many still stand in present-day uptown Kingston.

In the 19th century, a new village sprang up on the Rondout Creek and, in 1872, merged with the older village into the City of Kingston. Hundreds of residences and commercial buildings arose in styles influenced by architects and builders of the Hudson Valley. Today, many of these buildings survive and are still in use. They tell the story of two New York State villages, of the rise and fall of industries, of changes in building methods and styles, and of the way that stones and mortar merge with mountain, river and sky to form a living record of a place in time.



Getting to Kingston



Finding Information

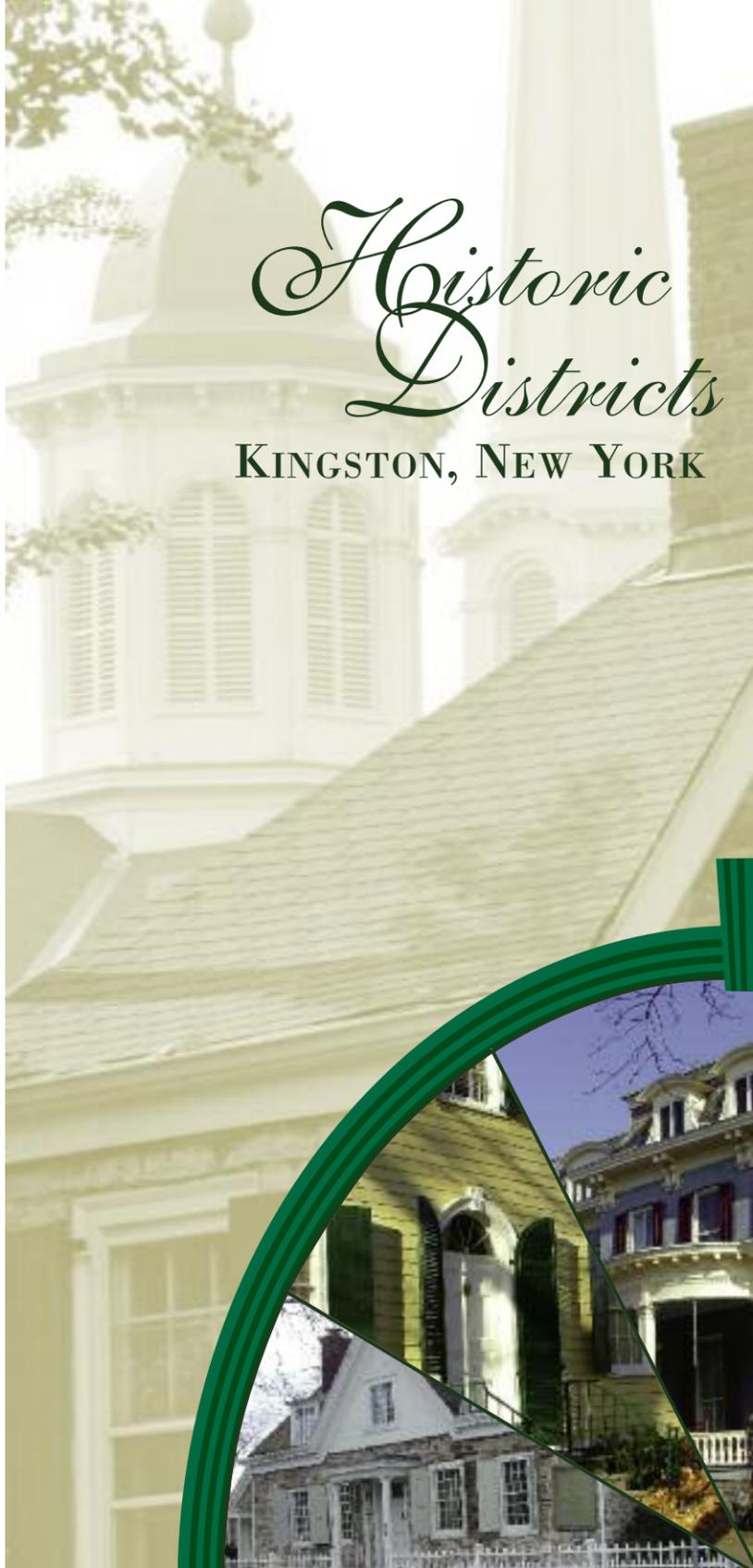
The color coded squares on the map inside indicate visitors centers where you can get additional information about Kingston and the surrounding area, including detailed walking tour guides and lists of current events. The Heritage Area provides visitors centers at 308 Clinton Avenue in the Stockade District (845-331-9506) and at 20 Broadway in the Rondout District (845-331-7517). Call for hours.

See Kingston on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ci.kingston.ny.us/>

This brochure was developed by the City of Kingston and its Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission. It was funded by a Certified Local Government grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

*Design by Marian McCorkle
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Photos: Will Fuller



Historic Districts

KINGSTON, NEW YORK

Kingston's Four Historic Districts

In 1966, with the help of a newly-formed Friends of Historic Kingston, the city began to recognize and designate certain buildings and districts as assets to the city's current and future residents. By 1995, the city had four historic districts.

In its first landmarks ordinance, Kingston created a Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission and designated as a local historic district the uptown area where Thomas Chambers and his fellow settlers had lived along the lines of the original stockade fence. This district is known as the Stockade District and is also listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

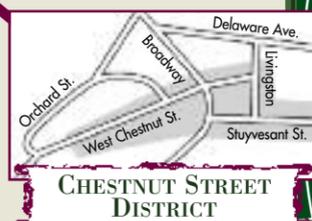
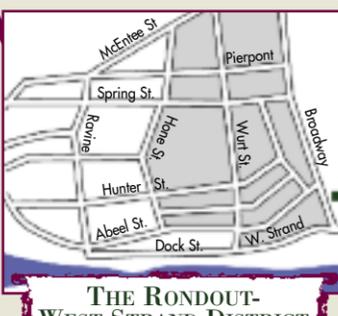
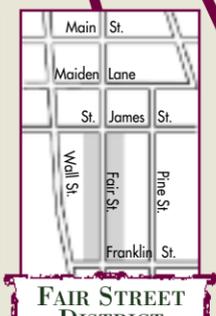
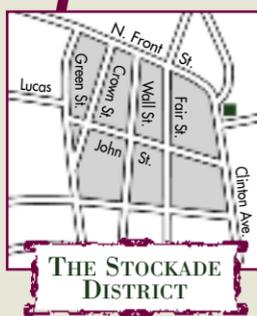
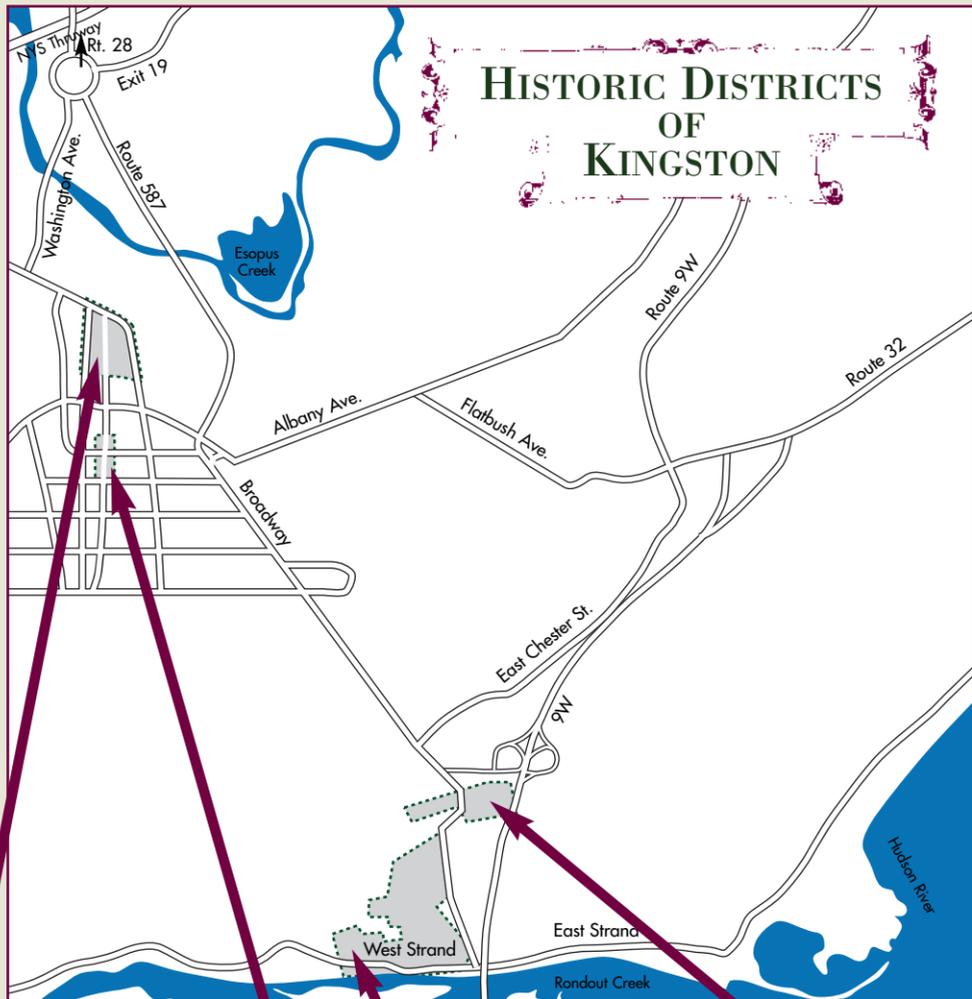
In 1979, the city designated a large part of the former village of Rondout, from McEntee Street near the top of the slope down to the Rondout Creek and including the remaining part of the commercial district on Broadway and the West Strand. The Rondout-West Strand Historic District is also listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

In 1985, the Chestnut Street Historic District, overlooking the Rondout District and containing the former homes of the more affluent Rondout residents, was listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places. The District was designated a local historic district in 1998.

In 1988, the Fair Street Historic District, containing the former homes of the affluent uptown residents, was designated a local historic district.

Other Scenic Neighborhoods

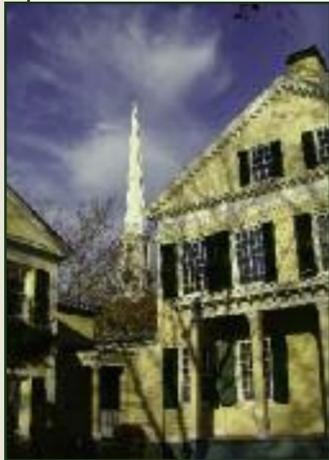
In addition to its designated historic districts, a number of picturesque 19th century houses stand along Albany Avenue to the east of the Stockade District. Other architecturally notable houses can be seen along Pearl Street to the west of the Stockade District. East of the Rondout District is the modest but picturesque neighborhood of Ponckhockie.



A Part of Kingston's Heritage Area

Kingston's historic buildings and districts form a significant part of Kingston's Heritage Area, an ongoing program supported by the State of New York. With a theme emphasizing the role of Kingston and Rondout in the state's transportation history, the Heritage Area in Kingston includes two visitors centers with exhibits at 308 Clinton Avenue in the Stockade District and at 20 Broadway in the Rondout District. The Area designates the Broadway thoroughfare as a corridor connecting the two parts of Kingston.

Stockade District



Replicas of the 1658 stockade stand on North Front Street to welcome visitors to the eight-block area that formed the original village of Kingston, the largest intact early Dutch settlement in New York State. Along the streets laid out by Peter Stuyvesant, 21 seventeenth and eighteenth century limestone buildings still stand. The intersection at John and Crown Streets boasts of being the only place in the U.S. with four eighteenth century stone buildings on all four corners. On Clinton Avenue is the 1676 stone house in which the first New York State Senate met in 1777. The Senate

House State Historic Site includes a museum featuring paintings by the notable Kingston artist, John Vanderlyn. On Wall Street, the Ulster County Courthouse marks the site where George Clinton was sworn in as New York State's first governor and John Jay as the first state chief justice in 1777. In the courthouse in 1821, Sojourner Truth, an Ulster County slave, gained her son's freedom from slavery in Alabama. The most visible building in the Stockade District is the Old Dutch Church, built of native bluestone in 1852. The burying ground contains the graves of many Revolutionary War soldiers and Governor George Clinton. Opposite, the c. 1812 Fred J. Johnston House features a collection of American decorative arts, and the Friends of Historic Kingston Museum offers exhibits related to local history and the arts. The Volunteer Firemen's Hall and Museum is on Fair Street. The neighborhood is rich in restaurants, specialty shops and art galleries.

A self-guided walking tour of the Stockade District is available.



Photo: Will Falter

Bounded by Clinton Avenue, North Front Street, Green Street, and Main Street.

Rondout-West Strand District



This large district includes much of the former Village of Rondout that combined with Kingston in 1872. It sprang up when the new Delaware and Hudson Canal was being built and coal from Pennsylvania began to pass through to the Hudson. As the canal traffic increased, workers arrived and homes and commercial businesses were built along the slope upward from the Rondout Creek. As the decades passed, Rondout took part in new industries that exploited natural resources and river transportation: brick-making, cement-making, bluestone shipping, and ice-making. Along with several new churches, Rondout also had a number of breweries and saloons.

The remaining part of Rondout's large commercial area is located along lower Broadway and on the West Strand. At the foot of Broadway stands the former Mansion House Hotel, a major stopover for travelers when it was built in 1854, replacing an earlier hotel. Nearby are the Sampson Opera House building, a bandstand, and docks for several boats that provide trips along the Hudson. Adjacent to the district are the Hudson River Maritime Museum and a Trolley Museum, which makes use of some of the trolley tracks that used to connect uptown Kingston and Rondout.

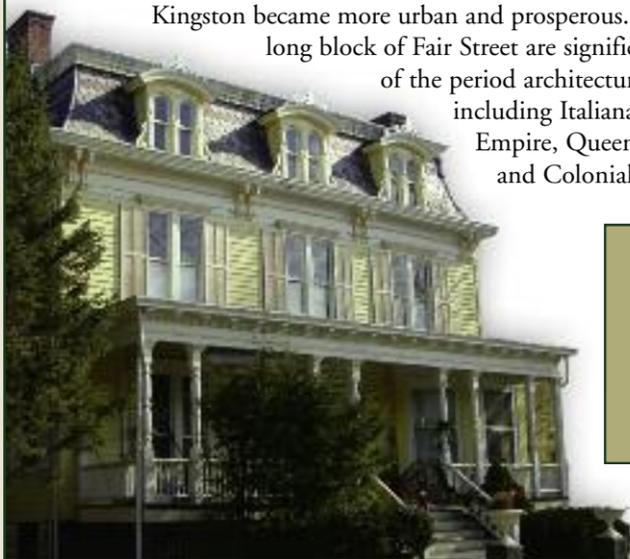


To the west of Broadway are a number of picturesque streets and houses that wind their way up the slope to the north. A separate walking tour brochure is available.

A somewhat irregular district bounded by Broadway on the east, McEntee Street on the north, the West Strand and Abeel Street on the south, and Hone Street on the west.

Fair Street District

Walking to the south on Fair Street outside the Stockade District, you will encounter an outstanding example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style at the 1893 St. James Methodist Church. (Photo on right.) At St. James and Fair, stands a fine Greek Revival home and continuing down Fair Street, is a long facing row of residences built from the 1850 period as uptown Kingston became more urban and prosperous. Along this long block of Fair Street are significant examples of the period architectural styles, including Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival.



The boundary consists of Fair Street from St. James Street to Franklin Street.

Chestnut Street District

As Rondout grew, a number of its affluent businessmen and professional people built homes at the top of the hill on West Chestnut Street. The first house on the street (about 1850) was that of James McEntee, the resident engineer for the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. His son, Jervis, a painter of the Hudson River School, also lived here. Among surviving houses are those of Henry

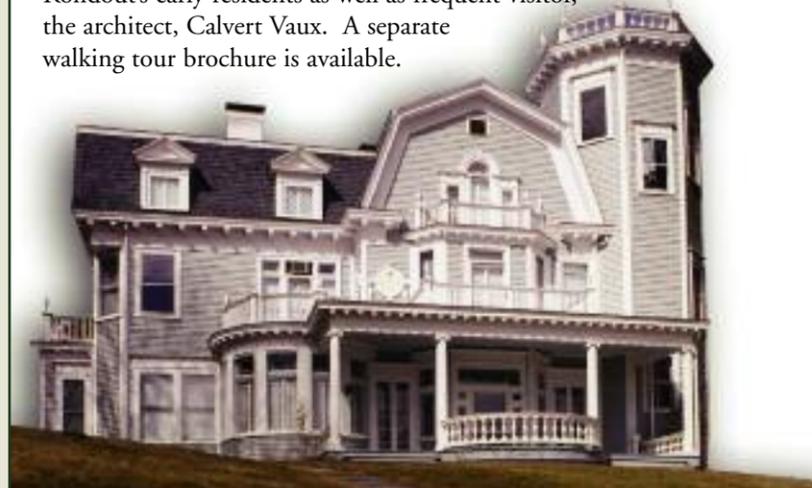


Samson, a leather tanner; James Van Deusen, who made patent medicine; and George Coykendall, head of the city's trolley line. The architecture spans American styles from the Italian Villa through Colonial Revival and later styles.

Consists of West Chestnut Street to 87 West Chestnut, East Chestnut, Broadway north for one block from Chestnut, and Stuyvesant Street.

The historic district includes one block on Broadway and the block-long Stuyvesant Street. To the west of the district at the very end of Chestnut Street, a turnaround provides a broad view of Rondout and its bridges, the Rondout Lighthouse, and the Hudson. Buried in the

picturesque Montrepose Cemetery a block away are many of Rondout's early residents as well as frequent visitor, the architect, Calvert Vaux. A separate walking tour brochure is available.



Individual Landmarks

The Van Steenburgh House (97 Wall Street) is the only pre-Revolutionary stone house that was untouched by the British when they burned Kingston in 1777.

The Cornelius Van Buren House (7 Green Street) and the Tobias Van Buren House (28 Green Street) were built by a family of fourth-generation farmers whose forebears came to America in 1631.

The City Hall (central Broadway) was used from 1876, shortly after it was built, until 1972, when the City abandoned the building for a newer building in lower Rondout. It was listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places in 1971. In 2000, the building was restored and returned to use as Kingston's City Hall.

Ulster Performing Arts Center (UPAC) (601 Broadway) a former vaudeville and movie theater. Today, it serves as a non-profit community center for the performing arts.

The Coykendall Coach Houses (Augusta Street near West Chestnut) are where Samuel D. Coykendall kept his coaches and later his automobiles. Although not officially landmarks, they are a highly visible part of the Rondout neighborhood.

Other Landmarks

- ✦ **The Kingston-Port Ewen Suspension Bridge**
- ✦ **The Kingston/Rondout Lighthouse**
- ✦ **The Ponckhockie Union Chapel**
- ✦ **The Fitch Bluestone Building** (pictured left)

