

Roslyn Landmark Society

2019 House Tour

Saturday, June 1, 2019

10:00am – 3:00pm



1. Roslyn Grist Mill (ca. 1715) ***Old Northern Blvd, Roslyn***

The Roslyn Grist Mill dates back to about 1715. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and is thought to be the only surviving mill of Dutch origin in the Country. Situated at the head of the harbor in Roslyn the repair and restoration project will not only protect the structure for the future, but will enhance the beauty of the local waterfront and provide opportunities for cultural and recreational activities.

Walk around the exterior of the Roslyn Grist Mill and see the progress of the on-going restoration project and learn more about the phase of construction scheduled for summer 2019.

Contributions to the restoration of the Roslyn Grist Mill can be made by contacting the Roslyn Landmark Society at rlsinfo@optonline.net or 516.625.4363.



2. 1147 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn

This building has not been historically researched at the time of this writing however, the author of this paragraph has observed this building since the late 1980's.

This small neo-colonial house had been occupied until several years ago by an older man named Sandor Cserenyi whose current whereabouts is unknown. The dwelling formerly had a 2-story lean-to addition on the rear which was demolished due to neglect – there was a gaping hole in the roof for years.

The property sat abandoned and boarded up for several years until recently purchased by a developer named Ellen Chen, who has purchased and restored other properties in the village. Ellen planned an aggressive expansion to make the building more livable by a modern family. During the course of review with the village's Historic District Board, a 1911 survey was revealed which implied the existence of a wrap-around porch. It is understood that this feature would unlikely be part of the original design, it has been determined that the building's date is certainly earlier, around 1888.

There is no docent at this property and tour participants are only allowed an exterior viewing. A photograph of the house in a prior state will be on display.



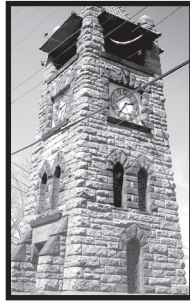
***3. John F. Remsen House
58 Glen Avenue, Roslyn
Residence of Joshua and Madeline Gittleman***

The construction of the John F. Remsen House, in the Queen Anne Colonial Revival style, began in 1885 when it overlooked Roslyn Village and Hempstead Harbor. Substantial alterations were made through the years to accommodate its several owners, but due to encroaching development some 100 years later, it was moved piece by piece in the 1990's and found new life through the Roslyn Preservation Corporation, with funds donated by Floyd Lyon and Roger Gerry.

It was physically impossible to move the house as one unit, so highly specific and intricate studies were made on framing, placement of windows, doors, etc, and all architectural details and historic finishes. Then it was carefully dismantled, each piece marked to facilitate re-assembly at its present Glen Avenue location. Of course, bathrooms and kitchen renovations were made with sensitivity to period detail.

Of Dutch ancestry, John F. Remsen was born in 1862. An older brother, Cornelius Remsen became Supervisor of The Town of North Hempstead. Others from this particular Remsen line were Chairman of the Board of The Roslyn National Bank & Trust Company, a founding Commissioner of the Roslyn Water District, and a member of the Roslyn Board of Education.

Two Remsen grand-daughters, who spent considerable time in their grandparent's home as children, still live nearby and served as consultants in its restoration.



4. Ellen E. Ward Memorial Clock Tower (ca. 1895)

Tower Place, Roslyn

Property of the Incorporated Village of Roslyn, Long Island

The Ellen E Ward Clock Tower was commissioned by her children and dedicated to her memory in 1895. Ellen Eliza Cairnes Ward was born in 1826 and grew up in Roslyn Harbor at "Clifton" now known as "Willowmere". She married Midshipman Robert Stuart, USN in 1848. The couple had three children and resided in Roslyn Harbor at "Locust Knoll" now known as "Mayknoll" Lt. Stuart resigned his commission in 1857 and died in 1863. Three years later, Ellen married Eliza Ward who had been Judge Advocate General of New York State. He died in 1882.

Mrs. Ward was deeply interested in, and dedicated to, the Roslyn community. She dedicated a window in Trinity Church in memory of her husband and in 1885 she donated the Roslyn Watering Trough which is located on the triangle at the intersection of Old Northern Boulevard and Bryant Avenue. Her children donated a litney desk and Brass Eagle Lectern to Trinity Church in their mother's memory.

There was extensive media coverage regarding the building of the Clock Tower with articles in the Roslyn News from March 1895 to its completion in December 1895. The architects for the design of the Clock Tower were Lamb & Rich of New York. Mr. Hugo Lamb was the architect of Theodore Roosevelt's home "Sagamore Hill". Mr. Harry Skewes was the mason in charge representing the firm of George Mertz and Sons of Port Chester, N.Y. He relocated his family to a house on East Broadway to be closer to his work. The design of the Tower was referred to as "Egyptian" but was in actuality known as "Richardsonian Romanesque" named for the architect H.H. Richardson (1838-1866).

The clockworks were made by Andrew S. Hotchkis of Seth Thomas Manufactory, Thomaston, Conn. and the clock and four faces were placed in the third level of the Tower and set in operation by Mr. King of Thomaston. The clock is a weight driven Seth Thomas # 17, eight-day strike. The first keeper of the clock was a local citizen, Charles H. Pearsall. Today it is maintained by the Village Of Roslyn. It underwent extensive restoration in 1995 and again in 1999. A descendent of the Ward family, Mr. Marshall Ward volunteered interior carpentry restoration in 1995. Above the entrance door is the memorial which reads;

**In Loving Memory of
Ellen E. Ward
A.D. 1895
To Whom Roslyn and Its People
Were Dear
She Fell Asleep January 18, 1893**



5. The Smith-Hegeman House (ca. 1845)
198 Main Street, Roslyn
Residence of Mrs. Marsha Tarlow

The Smith-Hegeman House and the James Sexton House were moved to the present Main Street locations during the summer of 1972. Before the move, both houses stood side by side on East Broadway, whose ownerships have been interconnected throughout the 19th & 20th centuries.

In 1813 the entire plot on East Broadway was conveyed by Adam & Jane Tredwell to Jacobus Montfort, Joseph Hegeman and Nina Onderdonk, in trust for the Dutch Reformed Congregations of Oyster Bay and North Hempstead. The Smith-Hegeman House, the earliest one on the property appears to date around 1840 and was built by Captain James W. Smith, the local tailor and commanding officer of the Hempstead Harbor Militia in the War of 1812. The home was purchased by Daniel Hegeman in 1867; upon Daniels' death the home was left to his wife and later to his grandson, also named Daniel.

The Smith-Hegeman house as it stands today is a 1 ½ storey clapboarded, side hall, "Cape Cod" cottage, Greek Revival in flavor which stands upon a brickfaced foundation. The house is three bays wide by two bays deep. A gable-ended wing with a narrow porch has been added to the south of the original house. The interior front door is paneled but untrimmed. The lock and brass hardware are not original but of the period and conform precisely to the paint markings. The living room was originally divided into front and back parlors. The dividing wall was missing when the house was relocated and has not been replaced. The original chimney and fireplace were in their present locations as established by the hearth patch in the floor and ceiling roof patches. All the doorways and windows were constructed with cross-topped Tuscan moulded surrounds and Tuscan moulded panels. The section of original mouldings, panel, etc. have been incorporated into the four living room window surrounds. All the doors are of the board-and-batten type, some original to the house. They all utilize Northfork type thumb latches of 1830-1850, elements of some of these were in use in the house at the time its restoration began.



6. Van Nostrand-Starkins House (ca. 1680)
221 Main Street, Roslyn
Roslyn Landmark Society

Architectural evidence indicates that this house was constructed around 1680. The earliest written record of this house, however, is the Federal census of 1790 that lists William Van Nostrand as the head of a household. Originally, the house was slightly over 20 feet in length and 16 feet wide with a large masonry fireplace. Over the years, extensive changes and additions were made to the property, particularly in the 19th century when it was owned by the Starkins, and later, Kirby families. In 1966, the Village of Roslyn acquired the property. From 1973-1977, the Roslyn Landmark Society undertook a major restoration of the property. The decision was made to restore the house to the 1800 configuration which was stage III of four stages of renovation. Today the house is maintained as a Historic Site and contains an important collection of American and Long Island made furniture and decorative arts.

The Van Nostrand Starkins House is open for tours by contacting the Roslyn Landmark Society.



***7. 42 Hillcrest Avenue, Roslyn
Residence of Barbara and Jerry Lipps***

(It is suggested at this point in the tour to drive to the last 4 sites. The ‘hill’ to 42 Hillcrest Avenue is best left for the strong at heart).

This building has not been historically researched at the time of this writing. The property is currently owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Lipps. The Lipp’s purchased the house from John and Leslie Flynn. John is a retired home builder and has constructed other homes in the village. He is currently a trustee on the Roslyn Landmarks Society. The Flynn’s expanded the building on the west side.

This neo-colonial building with gable ends perpendicular to the street is thought to have had the original entrance on the north side. Evidence of this is the location of the main interior stairwell and an old site drawing which indicates a path from the north side. As such, the current main entrance is oriented to the east/street front and noteworthy is the colonnade which is similar to the Remsen avenue house formerly owned by Roy Moser.

Mrs. Lipps is an interior designer and the home reflects her profession well. Mr. and Mrs. Lipps have been pursuing an addition to the residence with the village Historic District Board to construct a first-floor master bedroom suite. After an unsuccessful attempt for a design to the north, a south side addition was accepted as an appropriate solution. The addition is currently under construction and can be viewed from the exterior. The addition was designed by a well-known local architect, Matt Korn, who recently joined the Roslyn Landmarks Society board of Trustees.



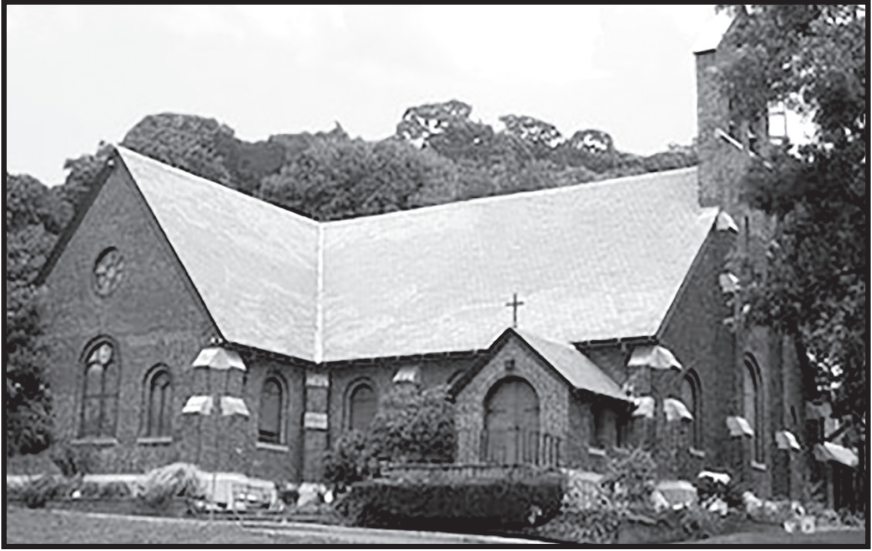
8. Kirby, Townsend, Travers House (ca. 1850-1860) **1639 Northern Boulevard, Roslyn**

Property of Craig and Florence Westergard

Dating back to 1843, the piece of property exchanged hands three times and was listed as being in the Village of Hempstead Harbor, the original name for the Village of Roslyn. A mortgage loan for \$300.00 appeared in 1848 leading to the assumption a house was to be built there. Eight years later the property was sold to Caleb Kirby who later transferred it to Rebecca Townsend who may have been a family member. A deed filed in Queens County transferred the property to George Wanser in March 1862. Of note, George Wanser provided the original building loan/mortgage in 1848. In 1874 the property was sold to James Travers of Roslyn. The Travers family held the property for 125 years until 1999. The house was then purchased from the estate of James Travers by Peggy Gerry of Roslyn. Peggy Gerry initiated a total restoration which was not completed due to her passing. Craig and Florence Westergard purchased the house from the Gerry's estate in 2005 and completed the project.

The house is referred to as a "hillside house" in that it is built into sloping ground with 3 stories in the front and 2 stories in the back.

The framing of the house is mill-sawn softwood timber which would have been processed by a water- powered sawmill. The main joints in the frame are mortice-and-tenon with treenail pins, a system seen in some of the oldest Dutch style structures in Roslyn. Two 20th century additions were demolished as part of the 1999 restoration; one single-story structure across the rear with a shed roof and one 2-story structure in the front with a gable roof. A cooking fireplace exists on the first floor. A room on the second floor shows evidence of having been heated by a stove with a metal stove pipe connected to a flue in the wall.



***9. Trinity Episcopal Church (ca. 1907)
Church Street and Northern Boulevard***

On April 18, 1906, Katherine Duer Mackay, wife of industrialist and art collector, Clarence Mackay, wrote a letter to Mr. Ordranax, Churchwarden of Trinity Episcopal Church, stating, "McKim, Meade and White, of New York, are making plans for the construction of a new church, for certain alterations to the rectory and a cloistered passage." Mrs. Mackay envisioned the church as a memorial to her mother Ellin Travers Duer while the parish house was erected in memory of her father, William Alexander Duer. Stanford White, partner of the architectural firm, had designed the Mackay's palatial estate, Harbor Hill immediately to the south of Trinity. One of the most accomplished architects of the era and a partner in the most important firm of the day, Stanford White designed comparatively few churches and the Roslyn commission was unfortunately, destined to be his last. White's design is derived from transitional Norman-Early English Style of the 14th century with its' use of round-arched windows and bell cote, or belfry wall.

The building is characteristically cruciform in plan and built in the traditional manner with roof-trusses supported by walls and buttresses. The interior is dominated by the superb framing of the high vaulted roof which employs ponderous soaring wooden trusses in the English Medieval tradition. Stained-glass windows, many executed by Tiffany studios and commissioned by the Mackays are found throughout the building.



**10. Cedarmere Mill (ca. 1787 and 1862)
225 Bryant Avenue Roslyn Harbor**

The original 1787 Mill at the site was built by Richard Kirk as a water-powered fulling mill which made and cleaned wool and other cloths. In addition to serving as a fulling mill it was used as a paper mill, as a cabinete factory and a glass working shop. The 1787 Mill burned in 1849 and was replaced by William Cullen Bryant in 1862. The Bryant Cedarmere Mill was most likely designed by Frederick S. Copley, an active area architect in the Gothic Revival style.

The Mill is considered unique in that it is the only surviving example of a mill in the Gothic Revival style which also has the first floor designed for use as a summer cottage. The mill works supplied power for machinery such as lathes, saws, grindstones and other tools needed to run the Bryant estate. The mill was originally powered by a water wheel but in 1885 Bryant's daughter Julia replaced it with a turbine drive. In 1930 the first floor space was converted to an art studio for Bryant's great -granddaughter Francis B. Godwin who was a sculptor.

Of note, is an etched letter "W" for William Cullen Bryant in a main floor, left diamond window pane on the north facade. The mill was recently restored through the generosity of the Gerry Charitable Trust in cooperation with the Roslyn Landmark Society and Nassau County Department of Parks and Recreation.

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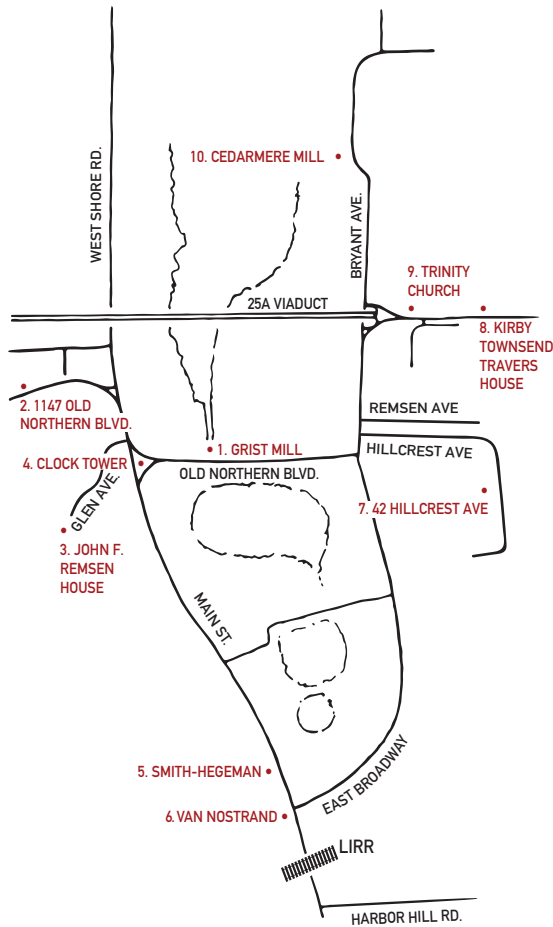
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No Spiked Heels
No Smoking or Interior Photography Allowed