



*Roslyn
Landmark
Society*

2016 House Tour
Saturday, June 4, 2016
10:00am – 3:00pm



**1. 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.



2. Cedarmere (ca. 1824/remodeled 1902) 225 Bryant Avenue, Roslyn Harbor

Cedarmere, best known as the home of prominent nineteenth-century American poet and newspaper editor William Cullen Bryant, was already one of the oldest houses in Roslyn Harbor when Bryant purchased it in 1843. Richard Kirk, a Quaker farmer who also ran a filling mill, constructed the original section of the house in 1787. In 1837, Joseph Moulton and his wife purchased the estate and they in turn, sold it to Bryant in 1843. Bryant lavished much attention on the estate, enlarging the house, adding outbuildings and developing the grounds into a horticultural showplace. He also expanded his holdings until he owned almost 200 acres of land, including harbor shorefront and an “upland farm” that included the northern half of the present Fine Arts Museum grounds which have been named the William Cullen Bryant Preserve in his honor. Following his death in 1878, the property passed through Bryant’s descendants. In 1902, while the property was rented, a terrible fire almost destroyed the main house. Bryant’s grandson, Harold Godwin, restored the house as you see it today.

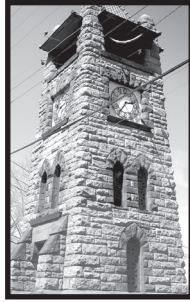


3. Cedarmere Mill (ca. 1787 and 1862) 225 Bryant Avenue Roslyn Harbor

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.



4. Ellen E. Ward Memorial Clock Tower ca. 1895 Tower Place

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;

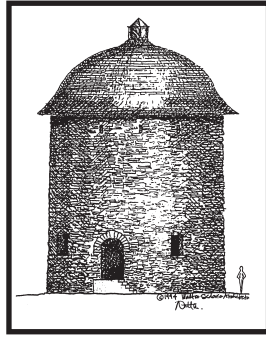
**In Loving Memory of
Ellen E. Ward
A.D. 1895
To Whom Roslyn and Its People
Were Dear
She Fell Asleep January 18, 1893**



5. George Allen Tenant House, ca. 1835 36 Main Street, Roslyn

The oldest section of the house was built around 1835 for George Allen, who lived next door. Listed as a “gentleman” in the 1850 census, Allen held several public offices, and he is said to have brought old New York cart horses to Roslyn to end their lives in comfort. The original house was one-and-a-half story, 3 bay wide, having a pitched roof, the ridge of which extended from north to south. The original chimney was rectangular in cross-section and was included inside the north wall of the principal block of the house. The home was renovated in four stages starting Circa 1835 with the final stage Circa 1974.

During December of 1974 there was a fire and the house was badly burned. The original doorways and the Queen Anne Revival principal staircase was scorched. Mr. Robert Augenstein, who owned the building from circa 1950-1974 cleared away the interior debris and provided some protection from the elements by covering the surviving roof framing. In the fall of 1976 almost 2 years later, the building was bought by Dr. and Mrs. Roger Gerry who were concerned about the possible demolition of the George Allen Tenant House on the Main Street Historic District. With the help from John Stevens, the architectural historian for the Bethpage Village Restoration it was decided that restoration was necessary and the Gerry’s bought the home. It had been decided that the home would be restored to its Stage II appearance (circa 1845) and to retain the Stage III (circa 1895-1905) south entrance hallway and stairway because of their fine provincial quality. It was impossible to determine how this area looked during Stage I (circa 1835). By the end of 1977 the exterior restoration was virtually complete; the interior restoration continued in 1979, 1980 and 1981. The George Allen Tenant House is now the headquarters for the Roslyn Landmark Society.



6. Harbor Hill Water Tower (ca. 1899-1902) (also known as Mackay Water Tower) Redwood Drive, East Hills

The Harbor Hill Water Tower also known as the Mackay Water Tower was designed in 1899 and built in 1900-1902, as a component of Clarence Mackay's Harbor Hill Estate. The water tower is an important survivor from the period when much of Long Island was developed with great estates. The water tower is significant as a handsome utilitarian structure, reflecting the fact that every aspect of estate design and planning was carefully considered by the owners and architects involved.

In 1898, Clarence Mackay married Katherine Alexander Duer. As a wedding gift, Clarence's father presented the couple with a tract of land located at the top of the Wheatley Hills, overlooking Hempstead Harbor on the highest point on Long Island. The Mackay Estate, which eventually stretched over more than six hundred acres of land, was located in Roslyn in a socially prominent section of Nassau County. Shortly after they acquired the land in 1899, Katherine Mackay contacted Stanford White concerning the design for the estate. In addition to the main house, Stanford White was also responsible for several architecturally distinguished buildings. The most notable of these are the water tower and the gate lodge.

Stanford White designed a rustic structure that would blend with its naturalistic surroundings and would also serve as a picturesque garden pavilion, for both the functional and esthetic needs of the estate. The Harbor Hill Water Tower consists of two primary components: the iron water tank and the masonry superstructure that surrounds and protects it. The tank, which was manufactured by the firm Tippet & Wood comprises a kettle formed of half-inch thick iron sheets riveted and welded together into a single unit, which in turn is supported by eight composite iron columns. A masonry superstructure encloses and protects the tank. Its form is dictated by its utilitarian function, the selection of materials used in its construction, and the detailing of its roof, and fenestration, convey an elegant and picturesque quality. One of the most important attributes of the tower is its unusually shaped black slate roof. The form of the roof, in combination with the random ashlar walls, has led to conjecture that the tower's design is based on the Belgian model, although this has not been verified. This, of course, would represent a departure of the French influences guiding the design of Harbor Hill itself.



7. Paper Mill (ca. 1773 and 1915) Paper Mill Road, Gerry Park

The 1773 Paper Mill was established by Hendrick Onderdonk. It was the first paper mill in New York State and one of the first in the Colonies. Paper manufacturing had been suppressed in the Colonial era and import duties were high. In 1801 he sold it to William Valentine, a local papermaker whose family operated the mill until 1891. Obediah Washington Valentine, born in 1811, ran the mill until his death in 1854. His brother, Myers Valentine, took over the operation of the mill and changed it to steam. Myers died in 1891 and the mill stopped production in 1896. The last mill product was a set of pasteboard cake boxes for the June 1886 wedding of President Grover Cleveland. From 1896 to 1915 it was left to deteriorate.

The present building was erected in 1915 by the Roslyn Neighborhood Association. The small building was built to resemble the original. The lower floor was a generating plant with a wheel turned by an electric generator which provided light for the park. The upper floor was designed for community meetings and social activities. For a time it was leased by the American Legion. Today, it is owned and managed by The Town of North Hempstead.



8. Samuel Dugan I House (ca. 1855) 148 Main Street, Roslyn

The Samuel Dugan I house may be the earliest building in Roslyn exhibiting Italianate details superimposed on a standard Georgian provincial house. It first appeared in 1873 on the Beers-Comstock map but is believed to have been built about 1855.

The original owners were Samuel Dugan of Belfast, Ireland and his wife Anngine of Scotland. They arrived with their children in Roslyn sometime after 1853. Samuel Dugan was a master stone mason and his work can still be seen in the street level retaining wall of the 148 Main St. house. The current owner Elita Phillippa Weintraub acquired the house in 1997.

The Italianate Villa is on a steep hillside placed on a high basement foundation in the front which gives the home a commanding view of the Village, ponds and across to the opposite hillsides. The porch is a distinguishing feature of the house which extends across the original 1855 structure and ends at the projection of the two story bay window wing, which was added in 1890.

The house has been re-furbished many times. A modern kitchen, removed from the basement, was added as late as the 1960's and again by the present owner who has recently restored much of the interior.



**9. Van Nostrand Starkins House
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. Today, the house serves as a house museum and contains an important collection of American, particularly Long Island-made furniture and decorative arts.

Roslyn Presbyterian Church

140 East Broadway, Roslyn
Circa 1851 and 1928

Sandwiches, Desserts, Beverages and Small Treasures for Sale

Sponsored by the Roslyn Presbyterian Church Women's Association

Located on Roslyn Pond in Gerry Park, the current Presbyterian Church was built in 1928. The architect was the renowned William Bunker Tubby who worked mainly in Brooklyn but served as the architect for the Nassau County Court House in 1898 and designed its addition in 1916. He designed three buildings in Roslyn in the Colonial Revival style, one of which was the Roslyn Presbyterian Church at 140 East Broadway in 1928. The original Church was built in 1858 at 35 East Broadway where it maintained an active congregation until the new building was built in 1928. Of historical note for Roslyn, William Cullen Bryant attended services at the original site and his wife Fanny was baptized by Dr. Samuel Rose Ely. The original building was eventually turned into a private, residential home.

**Live “Colonial Music”
performed by Sampawam’s Creek**

**Performing at the Roslyn Grist Mill and
the Van Nostrand Starkins House**

Sampawam’s Creek is a “colonial musical” group specializing in music from several historical periods. Performers will be in period time attire and give a small historical background on the songs.

Robeson - Williams Grist Mill (ca. 1890)
Old Northern Blvd

Walk around the exterior of the Robeson - Williams Grist Mill and learn about the restoration campaign currently under way. A Docent will be at the Mill to talk about the historic significance of this structure and the plans the Roslyn Landmark Society has for preservation of the structure.

ROSLYN LANDMARK SOCIETY

Craig Westergard, President
John Santos, Vice President
John Flynn, Treasurer
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Catherine Chester
The Reverend Margaret Peckham Clark
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Become a Roslyn Landmark Society Member
Annual Membership is \$25

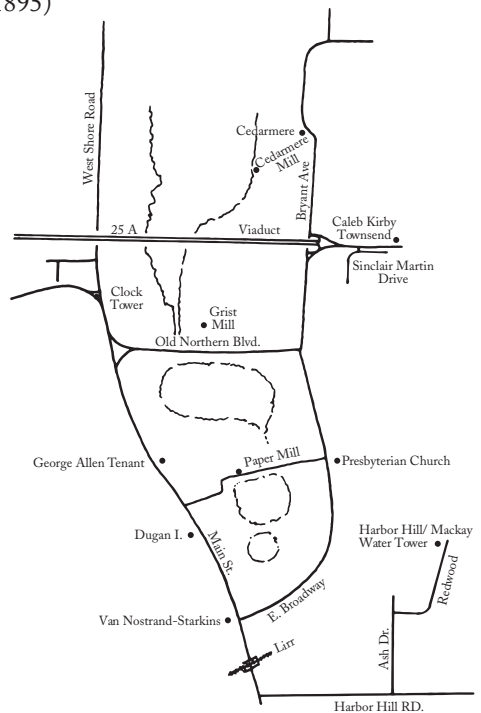
For more information please contact the
Roslyn Landmark Society at [rlsinfo@
optonline.net](mailto:rlsinfo@optonline.net) or 516.625.4363



Roslyn Landmark Society

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4. Ellen E. Ward Memorial Clock Tower (ca. 1895)
Tower Place - Last tour will be 2:30pm
5. George Allen Tenant House (ca. 1830)
36 Main Street, Roslyn
6. Harbor Hill Water Tower (ca. 1899-1902)
(also known as Mackay Water Tower)
Redwood Drive, East Hills
7. Paper Mill
Paper Mill Road, Gerry Park
8. Roslyn Grist Mill (Exterior)
Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn
9. Samuel Dugan I House (ca. 1855)
148 Main Street, Roslyn
10. Van Nostrand Starkins House (ca. 1680)
221 Main Street, Roslyn



Please No Children under Twelve
No Spiked Heels
No Smoking or Interior Photography Allowed