



*Roslyn
Landmark
Society*

2015 House Tour
Saturday, June 6, 2015
10:00am – 4:00pm



***1. 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.



***2. Warren S. Wilkey House, ca. 1864
190 Main Street, Roslyn
Residence of Mr. and Mrs Jeffrey Rowe***

The exact date of the Warren S. Wilkey house is a mystery although there are indications it was built between 1864 and 1867 by John S. Wood for Warren S. Wilkey. John Wood was Warren Wilkey's brother-in-law and his father, Thomas Wood, had been the principal carpenter-builder in Roslyn for many years.

Warren S. Wilkey was born in 1813 and was married to Ann Eliza Thorp in New York City in 1840. He was in the leather business and made a considerable profit selling leather goods to the Union Army. The Curtin's Directory of Long Island shows him in residence as late as 1879. By 1882 he was listed in Brooklyn and later in Kings County.

The house has passed through several owners and periods of abandonment, vandalism and deterioration. In late 1970 Karl Rinas sold the house to the Roslyn Preservation Corporation, a non-profit corporation headed by Dr. Roger Gerry. In 1970 and again in 1978 the house suffered massive damage from a broken water main and a collapse of the hillside behind the house due to construction faults on the property at the top of the hill. The landslide caused tons of mud, trees and rocks to fill the house from the basement to the second floor

Dr. and Mrs. Gerry, along with Mr. Guy Ladd Frost, Roslyn Architect for the Roslyn Preservation Corporation, undertook a labor of intense research and determined effort to assure an exacting museum quality restoration.

The house is rectangular in shape and is in the French Second Empire style. The house is further distinguished by the presence of the centrally located belvedere which is accessed on the third floor by a free standing, double-raised stairway. On completion of the restoration, the house was sold to Mr. and Mrs Lester Arstark in April, 1980. They remained in residence until when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs Jeffrey Rowe who are the present owners.



***3. 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 their present Main Street locations during the summer of 1972. Before the move, they 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.

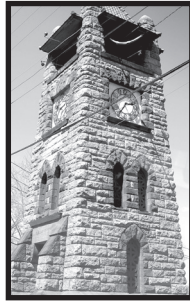
The Smith-Hegeman house as it stands today is a 1 ½ storey clapboarded, side hall, "Cape Cod" cottage, Greek Revival in flavor which stands upon a brickfaced foundation. The house is three bays wide by two bays deep. A gable-ended wing with a narrow porch has been added to the south of the original house. 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 small 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 crosstetted 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.



4. George Allen Tenant House, ca. 1835
36 Main Street
Roslyn Landmark Society

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.



5. Ellen E Ward Memorial Clock Tower ca. 1895

Tower Place

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 Lecturn 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**



***6. 198 East Broadway
The Conklin-Zwerdling Barn
restored/remodeled 1990s***

The original section (north wing) of this fascinating house was constructed in the 1880s for members of the Conklin lumber family and was transformed into a residence in the 1990s. Local architect Guy Ladd Frost designed the southern wing and the rear porches. The addition and numerous features throughout the house were fabricated using salvaged materials. The front doors of tiger oak with their original leaded glass panes came from a Vermont monastery. Ranging in dates from the 1750s to the 1850s, the interior doors with their original paint finishes and hardware were collected from sites throughout the northeast. The flooring was salvaged from Susquehanna, Pennsylvania hay mews and the mortarless triple flue stone chimney created by Frank Tiberi was fashioned along the lines of Indian-style burial grounds. Artist York Ast crafted the interesting kitchen floor that is composed of zinc and finished with aluminum roofing nails to resemble the skin of an airplane. Ast also crafted the copper sink in the upstairs bathroom while the marble sink in the downstairs powder room came from Turkey. Master craftsman Ronald Saccardo directed the restoration of the barn according to plans provided by Frost who also designed the main house in 1990.



7. 9 Layton Street ca. 1890
Roslyn
Residence of Christopher Rhinehart

The house at 9 Layton Street was moved to its present site along with others in the neighborhood sometime between 1906 and 1914. They were moved from West Shore Road due to roadway expansion. Since 1914 the house has changed ownership only four times. It was purchased by Christopher Rhinehart, the present owner, in 2014 from Albertia Bedell whose family had owned it since 1948.

The house was originally built around 1890 as a one-and-a half story, two-bay wide gable structure with a partial shed-roof porch. The porch had decorative brackets, balustrade and newel posts. It conformed to the hall-and-parlor plan, two rooms wide and one room deep on the first floor known as the National Folk House style. It is a style that can be traced back to the 17th century. It was a popular design late into the 19th century.

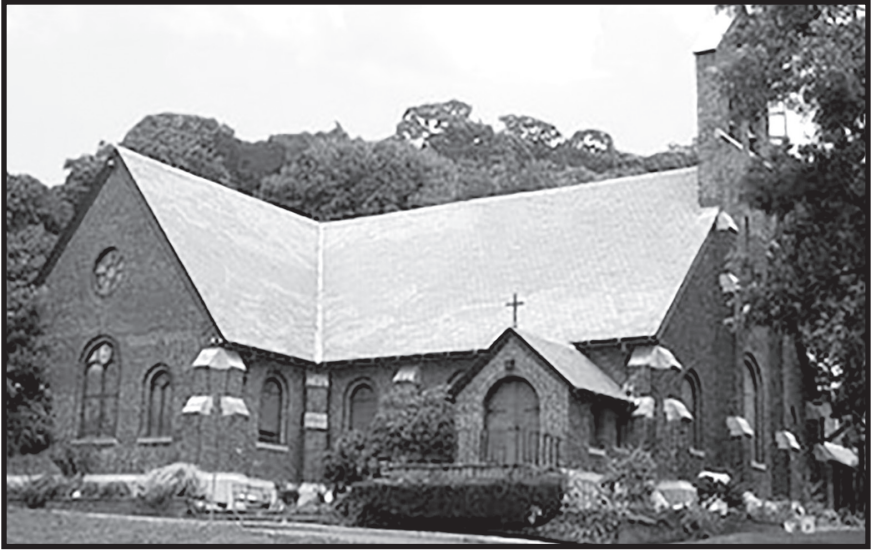
The house today has been altered on the interior and the dividing wall on the first floor has been removed to create one large room. Today it rests on a concrete foundation instead of a more typical brick foundation. It has been recently restored by Mr. Rhinehart and enlarged with the addition of a double roof dormer and a rear extension. Period materials were utilized including the siding and two over two windows. Rediscovered historic hardware holds carefully replicated shutters. Porch brackets and decking were additionally replicated along with other architectural details which add to the charm and historic significance of this Roslyn home.



8. William J. Strong House, ca. 1830 & 1907
1100 Old Northern Boulevard, Roslyn
Residence of Carol Hoerber

It is believed that the house at 1100 Old Northern Boulevard was built by Daniel Noon in 1830 and originally occupied the south side of what today is Northern Boulevard and Middle Neck Road. It was moved to its present location, on Old Northern Boulevard on “Roslyn Hill”, in October 1907 in order to accommodate the laying of the Mineola - Roslyn and Port Washington street car tracks. At the time of the relocation it was sold by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hackett to William J. Strong who left it in his will to his son Edgar Strong in 1941.

Major alterations were undertaken in 1907, at the time of the move, to make its’ dimensions conform to the smaller Roslyn lot on which it was placed. A first floor west addition may have been removed due to lack of breadth of the new lot along with the removal of a south facade porch. A new porch then was built across the front of the house. Exact dating of the original structure and subsequent alterations are difficult to determine due to the extensive use in the original building of recycled materials from an earlier time and structure. The house has undergone numerous alterations and structural changes during the early part of the 20th century and periods of deterioration. In 1985 major alterations were done to reconstruct the front porch and chimney. It was “saved” by Roger and Peggy Gerry in 1993 and restored in 1994 to its 1907 -1910 appearance. One significant departure was the addition of a two story gabled wing on the north side where it had originally been one story. The restoration involved noted scholars, local historians and architects and nationally known consultants. It was acquired by the current owner in February, 1997.



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

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
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 fanner 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.

Roslyn Landmark Society

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1. *Van Nostrand-Starkins House (ca. 1680)*
221 Main Street

2. *The Warren Wilkey House (ca. 1864)*
190 Main Street

3. *Smith-Hegeman House (ca. 1845)*
198 Main Street

4. *George Allen Tenant House (ca. 1830)*
36 Main Street (Roslyn Landmark Society
Headquarters)

5. *Ellen E. Ward Memorial Clock Tower (ca. 1895)*
Tower Place

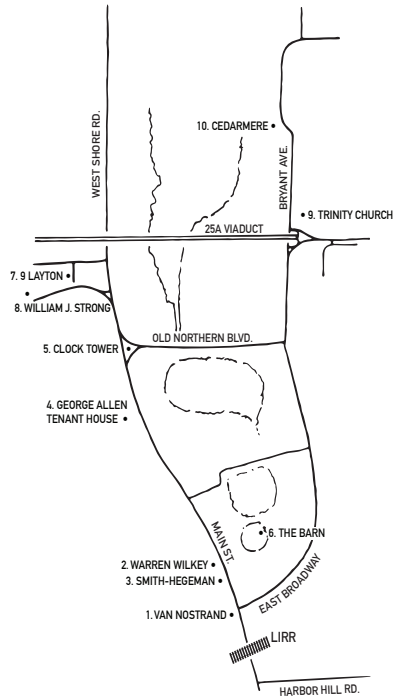
6. *Zwerdling Barn (ca. 2000)*
198 East Broadway (to the rear)

7. *9 Layton Street (ca. 1890)*

8. *William J. Strong House (ca. 1830 & 1907)*
1100 Old Northern Blvd.

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

10. *Cedarmere (ca. 1824/remodeled 1902)*
225 Bryant Avenue



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