

NSHA's 40th Anniversary

Tour of New Scotland

2011

N.B. This is an extract from the full tour guide and includes maps and information for the following tour(s) only:

Feura Bush

Unionville



Sponsored by the New Scotland Historical Association



Vanderbilt/ DeLong House



Walter Groesbeck House

*Continuing down Tarrytown Rd., you will see the **Groesbeck Home** at #1864 on the left, across from the Vanderbilt driveway. George Latta built this home in 1887 as a tenant house. Walter Groesbeck first rented the house and later purchased it. The former Onesquethaw School (District #1) is the freshly painted red building to the right behind the house. Originally the school was located across from the Onesquethaw Reformed Church, but was moved here and converted into a garage.*

***HdM** Bear left onto Groesbeck Rd. and pull into the church parking lot. You will see the **Onesquethaw Reformed Church** built in 1825 on the left. It began its service to God as a Presbyterian congregation on land deeded by Cornelius A. Slingerland and his wife Anna. The church was built with local limestone quarried for the Erie Canal, but rejected for the canal because it was too small. The church continues as an active family-outreach congregation today.*

Look straight ahead as you pull out of the church lot. This land in front of you was where the Onesquethaw School was located.



Onesquethaw School



Onesquethaw Reformed Church

Turn right and return to Tarrytown Road. Before you turn left, look straight ahead and you have another beautiful view of the Vanderbilt/Delong Home. Turn left and continue south towards Meeds Corners (Rte. 32)

Map

***HdM** After .6 mi. you will see a Historic Marker on the right marking the **VanDyke Home**, built by David VanDyke, a Revolutionary War vet in 1788. Be sure to read the marker! Note the original stone structure with several more recent additions.*

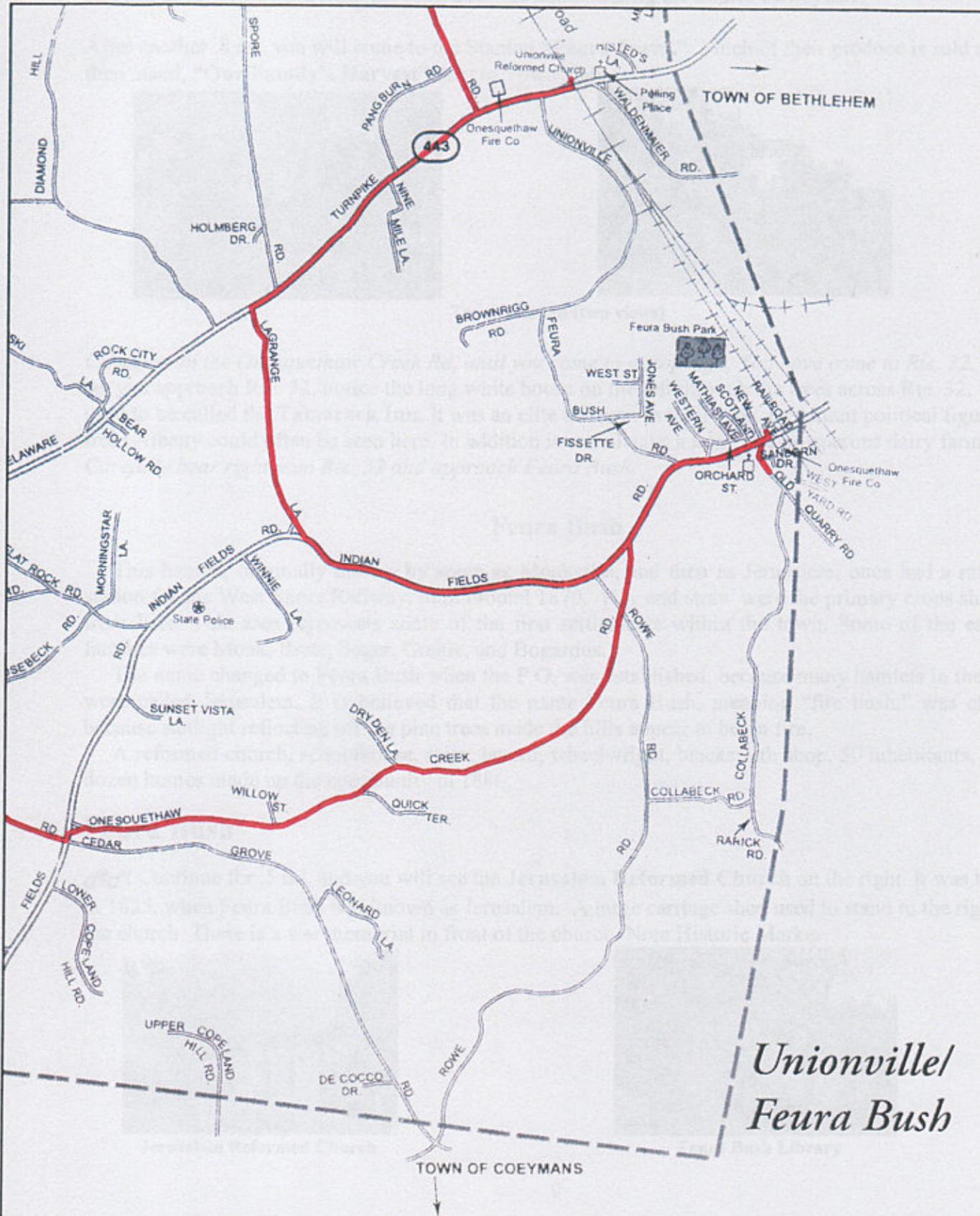
Continue to the intersection and turn left onto Rte. 32. Take the first right (about 100 feet!) onto the Onesquethaw Creek Rd.

***HdM** Go 1.2 mi., and on the right you will see a large barn known as the **Wemp Barn**. This fine example of a Dutch Barn was moved from its original home in Fort Hunter to this location. Inside the barn are exhibits showing the building being moved, etc. The barn is open to the public.*



Town of New Scotland Historical Tour Key Map

New Scotland Historical Association



*Unionville/
Feura Bush*

Feura Bush

This hamlet, originally known by some as Moakville, and then as Jerusalem, once had a railroad station for the West Shore Railway, built around 1870. Hay and straw were the primary crops shipped from here. This area represents some of the first settlements within the town. Some of the earliest families were Moak, Brate, Sager, Creble, and Bogardus.

The name changed to Feura Bush when the P.O. was established, because many hamlets in the state were called Jerusalem. It is believed that the name Feura Bush, meaning “fire bush,” was chosen because sunlight reflecting off the pine trees made the hills appear to be on fire.

A reformed church, schoolhouse, store, tavern, wheelwright, blacksmith shop, 50 inhabitants, and a dozen homes made up the community in 1886.

Feura Bush

HM Continue for .5 mi. and you will see the **Jerusalem Reformed Church** on the right. It was built in 1825, when Feura Bush was known as Jerusalem. A large carriage shed used to stand to the right of the church. There is a war memorial in front of the church. Note Historic Marker.



Jerusalem Reformed Church



Feura Bush Library

To the left of the church is the **Feura Bush Library**. It was once a one room school, old District #5. The school was dedicated in 1885 and remained in use until 1929, when the new brick school on New Scotland Ave. was built. The old blackboards remain. It became the home of the library in 1987, sponsored by the Neighborhood Association.

Continue on Rte. 32, until you come to #1403 on the corner of Old Quarry Rd. This was **Mathias's Store**. It was built in the 1880s by Conrad Mathias, who operated a store here in the early 1900s. It also housed the Post Office. It was sold and became a private residence in 1947.



Mathias's Store



Jerusalem Cemetery

Turn right onto Quarry Rd. The Jerusalem Cemetery is just down Quarry Rd. on the right. Take time to walk through the cemetery, if you wish, and then return to Rte. 32 and continue east.

HdM Soon you will come to the **Stewart's Shop** on the left. Take time to park here at Stewart's or just beyond it. **Hallenbeck's Store** was located here until World War I, when it became **Vadney's Coal and Feed**. Ray Vadney continued the business until the 1980s, selling heating oil, coal and grain. Across Rte. 32 were coal sheds and just south of these was the **Railroad Station**. The old tracks consisted of a spur which came off of the main line which was, and still is, further east. The spur ran east of the present Stewart's and ran north-south. The railroad station was built on the spur in 1870 and continued to operate until around 1940. Besides mail, farm products and regular passengers, the trains took students to Ravenna for High School. This early business district was a very busy area years ago.



Hallenbeck's Store



Vadney's Grocery, Coal & Feed



Feura Bush Railroad Station

Turn around and retrace your steps on Rte. 32. Soon you will see the Post Office on the right. Dewey Rothaupt's Garage was located here. Built in 1935, it was the first Ford dealership in Albany County. The building was removed to make way for the Post Office in 1985.

HdM Across from Persico's Market, you will see a Historic Marker on the right saying **Creble House**. It is a large 1900 Victorian-style home, with a turret. It was built for Francis Creble and his wife Sarah Callahan Creble.



Dewey Rothaupt's Ford Garage



Creble House

Continue west on Rte. 32. Across from the church you can see the old **Feura Bush Hotel**, #1438, built in the early 1800s. Workers stayed here when quarrying local rock for the Erie Canal. The Rothaupt family operated this for many years around 1900. The building had a roller skating rink over the carriage sheds and the Post Office was housed here for a time. Currently it has apartments in it.



Feura Bush Hotel (two views)

Continue on Rte. 32 for 1.9 miles. Soon you will see a red school house in the woods in front of you. It is the **Woodside School**—District # 9. This school has been moved to its current location, from the top of the hill to the right. The Waxman family enjoyed it as a summer home for many years, after purchasing it at public auction in 1958. It now belongs to the Clarksville Historical Society. *Take a right onto LaGrange Lane, just beyond the school.*



Woodside School – District #9



Slingerland – LaGrange Farm

HdM Next on the right you will see the **Slingerland-LaGrange Farm**. This, the largest dairy farm in the town, is now operated by descendants of Teunis Cornelius Slingerland. Albert built this stone house in the 1750s. He was born in 1733 and was a Revolutionary War soldier. His great-granddaughter Agnes married Vanderzee LaGrange who moved here from Guilderland. 12 generations have lived here. View the Historic Marker.

Continue on LaGrange Lane until you come to the stop sign at Rte. 443, Delaware Tpk.

Unionville

Unionville is a small hamlet located on the Delaware Turnpike north of Feura Bush. Some members of the Jerusalem and Salem Reformed Churches united to form the Union Dutch Reformed Church in 1824, building a church here in 1825.

A settlement, which was called Unionville, grew around the church. By 1886, there were fifteen homes, sixty inhabitants, the church, tavern, schoolhouse, blacksmith shop and wheelwright shop. The Union Church P.O. was located in the hotel. This name was chosen because there was already a Unionville P.O. in Orange County.

The West Shore and Buffalo Railway passed through Unionville. There was a switchman's shanty by the track, but no station.

Unionville Tour

Turn right on Rte. 443, and soon on your right (about .3 mi.) you will see the **Van Atten Cemetery**. Buried here is William VanAtten, who died November 17, 1830. He was a Revolutionary War Veteran and served as clerk at the meeting in February 1825 when the building of the Unionville Church was planned.

Immediately on your left, set back a bit from the road, is a stone house with a yellow clapboard additions, the **Van Atten Homestead**. The east side is original stone. The date 1791 is inscribed on this peak. It is believed that Benjamin VanAtten built the house soon after he leased the land from the patroon. It is of typical Dutch construction. It stayed in the VanAtten family for over 100 years. This house is east of the white house and almost in back of it.



Van Atten Cemetery



Van Atten House

The second house on your right was once called the **Nine Mile House**. It was a hotel located beside the marker that told travelers they were nine miles from Albany. Those markers were important in the days of the toll road. Not many of them are left. As the twists and turns in the road changed, the marker was moved and you will see it a little further along, on your right. The road beside the marker is called **Nine Mile Lane**.



Nine Mile house



Nine Mile Marker

HdM Continue east another 1.4 mi. On the right, perched above an interesting retaining wall, is **Smoke House Hill Farm**, the recipient of our latest Historical Marker. The house was built in the early 1800s by Peter Bradt. When the old Jerusalem Church was torn down, Mr. Bradt installed its front door in this house. It is still here, the only relic we have of the old 1791 structure. In the beginning the road was level with the front door. Can you imagine how steep the hill must have been before the cut was made?



Church Door – Smoke House Hill Farm

HdM Continue east, under the railroad underpass and turn left in the parking lot of the **Unionville (or Union Dutch) Reformed Church** at 1134 Delaware Turnpike. It was formed from the old **Jerusalem Church** that had been in existence in the area since 1791, located between Unionville and Feura Bush.

When Rev. VanHuysen retired in 1824, the congregation divided. Some of the members formed the Jerusalem Church of Feura Bush, while the people nearer Delaware Turnpike joined with some members of the New Salem Church to form a “union.” Thus, the **Union Dutch Reformed Church** was born. Take time to read the historic marker out in front. The horse sheds are a land mark, since they are the only ones still surviving for many miles around. The earliest (sanctuary) part of the building was erected in 1825.



Union Dutch Reformed Church



“New” Unionville School – District #13

Note the house to the east of the church parking lot. This is the **“new” Unionville School**. It was built in 1907, replacing a very old building that had been located on the steep part of Unionville Hill, below the present firehouse. The building you see here served the children of District # 13 until the present Clarksville School was ready for use in 1949. By then Unionville was part of Bethlehem Central School district and this schoolhouse, along with about an acre of land was sold at auction for a private home.



Unionville Hotel c. 1950

*Turn right out of the church parking lot and proceed west on Rte. 443. On the right, directly across from the intersection of the Unionville-Feura Bush Road (Rte. 308) is a vacant lot that was the site of the **Unionville Hotel**. Built in the early 1800s the hotel was a stop for the Rensselaerville--Albany Stage. In fact, they changed horses here, leaving the team that had navigated the steep hills to this point in their journey in the stables here to rest, until the return trip, and hitching up a fresh team for the clay hills and sand flats between here and Albany. The post office was here, too, and sometimes a grocery store. The ballroom upstairs boasted of a floating dance floor and many social functions were held here. At one time it housed the "Slingerlands Players." It fell into disrepair and was razed in 2000.*

Continuing west on Rte. 443, you can see the **Onesquethaw Volunteer Fire Firehouse** on the right. The fire company was organized in 1941. In the meantime, a Unionville Community Association was formed and held money making affairs to help pay for a permanent fire hall. The dream became a reality in 1958 when the first Unionville fire house was built. In 1998, the present building was erected to accommodate more and larger equipment.

To go to New Scotland, turn right onto New Scotland South Rd. (Rte. 308) Just beyond Pangburn Rd. on the left. You will see a large beige house, #55. According to old maps, this house seems to have been built between 1854 and 1866. The land was probably included in a lease given to Isaac VanWie on January 10, 1806 by the Patroon. On 1851 and 1854 maps, no house appears here, but in 1866 Beers map the name "H. Stuart" is found on this spot.



#55 New Scotland South Road