

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:

New Scotland

Voorheesville



Sponsored by the New Scotland Historical Association

New Scotland

New Scotland was settled as early as 1765, by many Scotch settlers, hence the name. The Post Office was established here by 1830, with Adam Holiday as Postmaster.

The West Shore Railroad built a rail line through the hamlet in 1865, along with the New Scotland Railroad Station. Now produce could be shipped out of the hamlet easily. New Scotland's most famous product was the "Bender Melon" from the Charles Bender Farm. Besides melons, much hay was shipped from here, also.

The first New Scotland Town Meeting was held here in 1833, in the Raynsford home formerly located on the corner of what is now known as Route 85 and 85A. It should be noted that the church was the second Presbyterian Church in Albany County, organized in 1787.

By 1886, New Scotland had a hotel, one store, a shoe shop, a wheelwright, a blacksmith shop and two harness shops.



Town of New Scotland Historical Tour Key Map

New Scotland Historical Association



New Scotland Tour

Turn left on Orchard Hill after .6 miles. This is across from the Game Farm Rd. sign. Continue until you see the first white house on your right. Our earliest maps point to the existence of this house. The 1851 Sidney Map pictures this house under the ownership of J.. According to an 1866 map, the house later changed ownership to S. Mosher.



70 Orchard Hill – former home of J. Palmateer



100 Orchard Hill – Stonepost Farm

The next house on the right is the **Stonepost Farm**. It was built around 1845 and held under the ownership of the Patroon until November 2, 1874. Shortly after this date, the property was deeded to Abram M. Sager. The original section of the house (the front) sits on a hand-dug basement and many of the original leaded glass windows are still in use. The 1845 corncrib is the only original outbuilding.

Continue on Orchard Hill Rd. until you reach the end. Take a right onto Bullock Rd. (there is no sign!). Soon, you'll pass a large horse farm on the left.



Bullock House

H&M Continue on Bullock Rd. for .9 mi. until you come to the **Bullock House**, located on a sharp bend. The grounds are lovely and gated. John Bullock built the original stone house in 1787. The farm contained 100 acres purchased from Stephen Van Rensselaer. John died in 1802, and his son Mathew continued the farm operation and raised English short-horn cattle. There were two large barns behind the house. The brick section was added to the left of the stone part shortly before the Civil War.



Houghtaling-Pound House 3 views showing structural changes

H&M Continue on Bullock Rd. for .8 mi. until you come to a large home, the **Hotaling-Pound House**, on the right just before you get to Rte. 85. This house was built sometime in the 1820s by Captain Thomas Rogers on land of Aaron Houghtaling. It changed to the Houghtaling family in the 1840s. A son, Harris, enlarged the original house and worked the farm.

In 1923, the house and 169 acres were sold to Arthur Pound, a writer, and his wife Madelon (Patterson). The Pounds had four daughters and came from Flint, Michigan. The Pounds made extensive additions and renovations and named the property Pine Knoll. The house and corner lot changed ownership several times in the last 30 years, but the farm portion has been retained by Pound's grandson.

HdM Turn right on Rte. 85 and drive .5 miles until you come to the **New Scotland Town Hall** on the left. In 1785, Anthony Wayne donated a ½ acre for the **first school** of the hamlet. The first building was built of logs, which was succeeded by two more. The final building in 1866 could accommodate 30 students in 8 grades. This was known as School District #8. It was absorbed by the Voorheesville School District in the 1940s after centralization, and was closed in 1953. The Town of New Scotland acquired the building and with renovations and additions, it now serves as the Town Hall.



New Scotland School – Town Hall



New Scotland Presbyterian Church

HdM Continue east on Rte.85 and you will see the **Presbyterian Church** on the right. Turn into the parking lot and look around. Organized in 1787, the first structure was built on land donated by the Patroon in 1791. A farm was also provided to help support the church. A new edifice replaced the first one and was dedicated in 1849. 16 feet were added to this with a rear entrance in 1869. This provided access to a reversed sanctuary and newly excavated basement. A large two story addition was completed in 1957 to provide space for Sunday School rooms, pastor's study and lounge. Other improvements have occurred since then.

14 Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in the adjoining graveyard and **cemetery** beyond it.

Turn right when leaving church yard and proceed until you come to the red light. Turn left onto Rte. 85A.

HdM The land to the right was once the **Bender Melon Farm**. See the Historic Marker at the old farm lane entrance. In the early 1900s, this was one of the most prosperous farms in Albany County. Charles Bender developed a variety of muskmelon superior in flavor and texture to any other. He secured customers for them with the better known restaurants and hotels in New York City. The melons were shipped in barrels, packed in ice with the seeds removed. An extensive local market soon developed for the melons and other farm products that Bender grew.

In 1939, Bender sold the farm to William Taylor for a dairy operation. Taylor has since sold the property for speculation and development. The original part of the house has been dismantled and moved to the Westerlo area.



Bender House – two views

*Continue on Rte. 85A until you come to Hilton Rd. on the right. It is across from a very large barn which was originally part of the Hilton Farm. Turn right on Hilton Rd. and proceed for .6 mi. until you come to a historic marker on the right next to the **Coughtry Homestead**.*



Coughtry homestead

HGM This old house was built between 1785—89 on land originally deeded by Stephen Van Rensselaer to John McCoughtry. The house contained two small rooms with a sleeping loft above. A kitchen room was added later to the roadside, and a porch enclosed for more living space. After World War II, Howard Coughtry, a descendant, acquired this property with several acres and built a new house behind this one.

Continue to the end of Hilton Rd. and turn left onto Krumkill Rd., Rte. 306. At the bottom of the hill you will see a large pond on the right. Beyond the pond is LaGrange Falls. This falls in the Vly Creek powered a sawmill here around 1720 for the original LaGrange family. A large gristmill was added in 1831. You can see the mill on the right above the falls in the picture.



LaGrange Falls

When you come to the next intersection, turn left and continue on Rte. 306. At the red light continue straight onto Voorheesville Ave.

Voorheesville

Voorheesville, incorporated in 1899, is New Scotland's largest, youngest, and only incorporated village. Its economic importance was established by the junction of two rail lines—the Albany & Susquehanna, and the West Shore Railroad, built in the 1860s. Previous to this, there was a small settlement on Altamont Road consisting of farms, homes, and the Black Creek Methodist Church, and a few farms where the village is now. With the coming of the railroads, hotels, stores, and industries sprang up.

By 1886, (only 20 short years), the village had a sawmill, three blacksmith shops, one wheelwright shop, two stores, one tin and stove shop with general hardware merchandise, hotel, train depot, freight buildings, 32 dwellings, 38 families, 140 inhabitants and a Post Office. In 1890, the Black Creek Church was dismantled and moved to its current location.

Voorheesville Tour

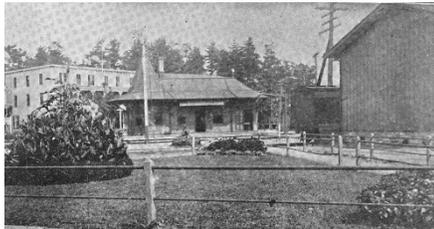
Continue on Voorheesville Ave. until just past Dry Wall Lane and a large gray building with white trim on the right; turn right onto Grove St.

H/M Note the Historic Marker on the right side noting that this is the site of the **Empire Cider and Vinegar Works**, established in 1890, which later became **Duffy-Mott**.



Empire Cider Works

On the right at the end of Grove Street is a vacant lot. This was the site of the Grove Hotel. Turn left and cross the railroad tracks, bearing left onto South Main St. The first building on the left is the “**Flat Iron Building**,” called this because of its shape. To the left of this building is the old RR Freight Building, which had been repaired and enlarged. The Train Station used to stand between the tracks. To the right was the Harris House. This was a bustling area in the late 1800s!



L to R, Grove Hotel, RR Station % Freight Building



L – Flat Iron Building R – Harris House

As you proceed up the street, many businesses have been and are located on the left. A **feed store, coal store, coal pocket, lumber company, feed mill, post office, Savings and Loan, and the first library** were all located here, over the years.



Vunck's Feed mill

Further up the street on the right, note “Old Songs.” This building was a former **Presbyterian Church**, built in 1886 and closed in 1949. The building became home of the Voorheesville Public Library, with a Teen Canteen in the basement. When the library moved to its current location in 1989, the building became a restaurant for a time.



Presbyterian Church



Tydol Station

The next building was a department store—with several different owners over the years. The corner dentist office was an **ice cream parlor**, and later a **Drug Store**. On the left, where Stewart's is located, there was a **Tydol Station**. Community street dances were held here years ago.

Continuing straight through the intersection on the left is currently the **American Legion Hall**. Formerly it was the home of the **Odd Fellows Hall**, where silent movies were shown with piano accompaniment.



Odd Fellows Hall



Fire House

Next door is the **Village Office** which was the **original firehouse**, until 1968, when the new one was built on Rte. 156.

Continue on until the end of Voorheesville Ave. As you turn right at the intersection, note the **Methodist Church** across the street on the left. It was dismantled and moved from the Altamont Rd. (Rte. 156) location in 1890. Kindergarten Classes for the Voorheesville School District were held here from 1947 until 1953, as there was no space in the school.

Continue on to Smith's Tavern, built in 1901. It was formerly the **Brook View Hotel** and even earlier Nick Oliver's Hotel.. Bear right at the intersection (red light) onto Rte. 156.

HdM Note the **Voorheesville Elementary School** across the parking lot and creek. The original part is the part to the left, with the front door in the center built in 1929. Several additions have been added since. The first school, a wood structure was built in front of the present building, and was replaced in 1867 by another building. When the 1929 building was complete, the old school in front of it was torn down.



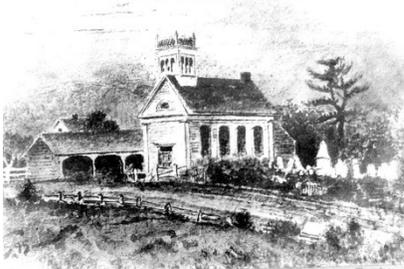
Bridge with school beyond



Voorheesville School

HdM On Rte. 156, just beyond the Elementary School on the left is a yellow home which housed the first **Post Office** in 1868, **Reid's General Store**, and was the home and farm of **James Reid**, the Town of New Scotland's first Supervisor.

HdM Continue towards Altamont on Rte. 156. On the right is a Historic Marker describing the **Black Creek Methodist Church**. This was the original location of the Voorheesville Methodist Church, built here in 1823. Remains of the old church cemetery may also be seen here. We must remember that before the trains came in the 1860s, the majority of the folks in the area settled along the Altamont Rd. area, hence the location of the church here.



Drawing of Black Creek Methodist Church



Voorheesville Methodist Church

Continue on Rte. 156 until you come to **Indian Ladder Farms**. Peter G. TenEyck 1st purchased the first farm in 1915, and added six more of the neighboring farms to create this former premier dairy farm. Mr. TenEyck was a congressman and Commissioner of Agriculture for New York State. The dairy barns burned in 1949. After the fire Mr. Ten Eyck began raising beef cattle and started creating the orchards full time. The large barn here used for retail sales was originally built for cold storage for apples. Years ago they even sold gasoline! It remains in the TenEyck family today.

HdM Continue on Rte. 156 until you come to Meadowdale Rd. on the right, just little ways. On this corner you can see what used to be the "**Locust Vale,**" or **Tygart Rd. School** built around 1827 and closed in 1939. It was moved to its current location in the 1940s and turned into a home. The current owners have done much to restore the building and beautify the grounds in keeping with the building.



Locust Vale School

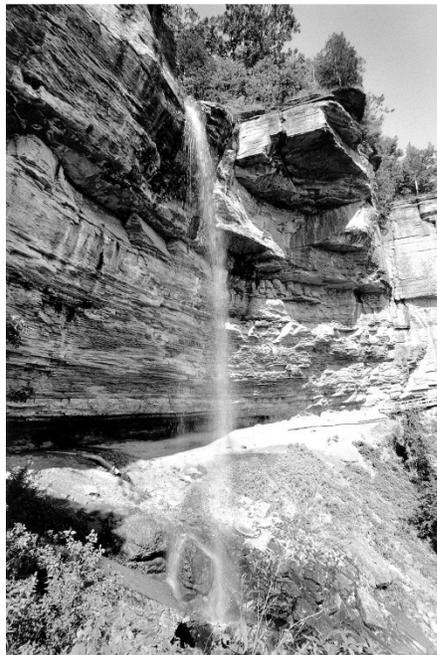


Former school as a private home

Continue on Rte 156 until you come to Picard Rd. Turn left onto Picard Rd. and enjoy the drive back to New Salem along the base of the **Helderberg Escarpment**. We hope you enjoyed the tour. We certainly have some beautiful countryside in the Town of New Scotland!



Helderberg Escarpment – two views



Mine Lot Falls Helderberg Escarpment