

State and National Registers
Of Historic Places Sites

Closter, New Jersey

And just what are the State and National Registers of Historic Places?

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic resources worthy of preservation. The first historical registry was established by Congress in 1935; in 1966, Congress passed the National Preservation Act (80 Stat. 915, as amended), establishing a National Register of Historic Places to include districts, sites, structures, buildings, and objects of local, state and national significance.

The New Jersey Register of Historic Places is the official list of New Jersey's historic resources of local, state and national interest. Created by the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act of 1970 (N.J.S.A. 13:1B-15.128 et seq.), the New Jersey Register is closely modeled after the National Register program. Both Registers have the same criteria for eligibility, nomination forms and review process. Nearly all municipalities in New Jersey have significant properties worthy of eligibility...

Closter has eleven buildings on both Registers; also, our Durie-Knickerbocker District and our Closter Historic District have been deemed eligible for inclusion on both Registers.

Criteria for Evaluation:

Entries eligible for inclusion on the Registers must:

- Be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- Be associated with the lives of persons significant in our pasts; or
- Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction, or
- Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Benefits of Listing on the Registers:

- ❑ 20% federal income tax credit for the substantial rehabilitation of a commercial building listed on the National Register (It is hoped that a tax credit for residential buildings will follow.)
- ❑ Matching grants and low interest loans for rehabilitation and restoration to qualifying agencies for properties listed on the New Jersey Register
- ❑ A degree of review and protection from public encroachment (i.e., any potentially destructive undertaking such as road widening)

And now, we present our State and
National Registers Sites located in
Closter, New Jersey...



The Resolvent Naugle House, 119 Hickory Lane

Constructed circa 1735, this is the oldest extant building in Closter and one of the oldest sandstone houses in the Dutch tradition in Bergen County. The walls are coursed rubble; later Dutch sandstones incorporate more finely cut stones. Like all sandstones in Closter, and like most Dutch sandstones everywhere, it faces south to catch the low arc of the winter sun; indeed, in addition to having natural solar heating systems, Dutch sandstones are naturally cool in summer. The present eight-acre property still operates as a farm.



The Ver Valen House, 151 West Street

Bernardus VerValen arrived in Closter in 1710; this building sits on or near the site of his circa 1713 house; indeed, it can not be said that the present structure does not incorporate elements of its predecessor. It is significant for being the smallest of the Closter sand stones; indeed, it is of further interest for having once been a one-room house. In the early nineteenth century it received a treatment that brought its appearance a then-fashionable Greek-revival look. Added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1983.



The John Naugle House, 75 Harvard Street

The main part of the present structure dates to before 1745. The Naugles were early settlers; the brothers Resolvent and Barent Naugle divided their lands in 1748 to facilitate conveyance to their heirs; the carved boundary marker can still be seen resting in the old burying ground, or Naugle-Auryansen cemetery, off Hickory Lane. By 1789, John's son David lived here; tax records place his wealth in the upper ten per cent of those living in Harrington Township; many of these modest dwellings housed people of substance. Added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1983.



The Daniel De Clark House, 145 Piermont Road

Also known as Breisacher Farms, after a later owner. The De Clarks had long been associated with the lower Hudson River settlements long before this house was erected in 1775; their house in Tappan, New York (now the Masonic Shrine), built in 1710, is, in reality, a North American example of late Northern European Medieval architecture. Clarkstown in Rockland County is named for the De Clarks. Added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1983.



The Isaac Naugle House, 80 Hickory Lane

Isaac Naugle and his wife Maria Auryansen built this house in circa 1780; the double entrance indicate that it was meant to house different generations of the same family. The interior is distinctive for two rare survivals: an old Dutch fireplace with no surround and an ancient and intricate lock. The shed dormers are later additions; dormers on such houses usually are. Added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1983.



The Auryansen House, 377 Piermont Road

The Auryansens, later known as Adriances, were early settlers in Closter. Built in 1794, the street facades of this building are finely cut, while the back is more rustic. The front kick eave was extended to form a front porch, a common addition to many Dutch sand stones in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1983.



The Walter Parcels-Lone Star Tavern, 639 Piermont Road

There are several hundred Dutch stone houses in Bergen County; this one only can be attributed to a known builder or architect. Walter Parcels, a mason, built this house in 1795, not far from the site of the Tallman house, a scene of great tragedy during the Raid of May 9, 1779. This home served as a tavern from the eighteenth-sixties to the early twentieth century; it passed out of the Parsells family in 1961. Added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1983.



The Durie-Ternure House, 257 Schraalenburg Road

The Durie family were French Huguenots and early settlers of the west side of Closter. Erected circa 1800, this house combines the earlier stone house tradition with English-derived design elements, especially noteworthy in the front door surround. Added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1983.



The David and Cornelius Van Horn House, 11 Cedar Lane

David Van Horn was a Loyalist during the Revolution, and therefore lost his lands; it was repurchased back into the family by March 1800. This house was built later, when Cedar Lane was straightened. An unusual feature of this house, not apparent in this photograph, is the use of coursed stone up into the gable ends; usually, wood clapboards begin to rise at the termination of the first story.



The Abram Demaree House, 110 Schraalenburgh Road

A further example of the marriage of earlier Dutch stone house traditions with later English-influenced motifs. Built circa 1830, it replaced an earlier, pre-Revolutionary house; added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1979.



The Harold Hess Lustron House, 421 Durie Avenue

Here's something unusual- a house that looks like a refrigerator! Aren't houses on the Registers supposed to be old? Well, generally they must be at least fifty years old, and Harold Hess built his Lustron in 1950. The Lustron Corporation produced only 4,498 metal and enamel houses from 1947 to 1950, when it succumbed to corporate sabotage. Sadly, Lustrons fall to the wreckers at an increasing pace each year. This is one of the few left in New Jersey; it is the best preserved, having all of the built-in components ordered by Mr. Hess, including the heating system. Added to the Registers in 2000.



What does a blue sign do?

A blue sign just educates—that's all. Such signs are offered through county agencies or historical societies. They simply serve to let the public know why a building, structure or site has significance. They can not confer protection, even if they grace properties on the State and National Registers—protection from demolition is, nationwide, possible only through local ordinances...

Protected by Ordinance

As you read earlier, inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places can not afford protection from demolition...and neither can a blue sign. Only a local ordinance, originating from a ruling municipal body, can afford historic sites and structures protection from demolition. In 2001, the Mayor and Council voted to amend Ordinance 1998:762, thereby allowing the designation of protected properties in Closter. And here they are...



The John Naugle House, 75 Harvard Street



The Daniel De Clark House., 145 Piermont Road



The Isaac Naugle House, 80 Hickory Lane



The Auryansen House, 377 Piermont Road



The Walter Parcells Lone Star Tavern, 639 Piermont Road



The Durie-Trnure House, 257 Schraalenburgh Road



The David and Cornelius Van Horn House, 11 Cedar Lane

This view of the house shows the unusual running of coursed stone well into the gable.



The Abram Demaree House, 110 Schraalenburgh Road



The John Ferdon House, 102 Blanche Avenue

The Ferdons were early Huguenot settlers; built in 1817, this frame house replicates the large, five-bay center hall sandstones of the late eighteenth-early nineteenth centuries. The elegant Adam-style transom and side lights surrounding the door reflect English tastes.



The J. Jordan House, 20 Piermont Road

The Jordans were settlers from Alpine. To get an idea of how this house originally looked, see the Doremus House. The front block is a late Victorian addition in the Colonial Revival style. Built in circa 1840.



The David Doremus House. 269 Piermont Road

Doremus was a carpenter; local lore has it that an articulated toe bone he carried in his pocket was a souvenir from the time he helped to exhume the body of Revolutionary spy Major John Andre. His house is in the vernacular Greek Revival: the eyebrow windows, attic frieze and pedimented portico are all hallmarks of the style. Built in circa 1843.



The Matthew S. Bogart House

A very handsome example of the vernacular Greek Revival-style farmhouse. The Bogarts were early Dutch settlers. The owner of this house recently won a county award for restoration work. Built in 1852.