HERITAGE SITES

1. Alsdorf Hall, 93 Liberty Street  Built in 1915 by one of Newburgh’s most prominent African-American families, Alsdorf Hall was the scene of concerts, dances and music for generations of Newburgers. From 1849 to 1952, three generations of Alsdorfs shared their wealth and musical talents.

2. AME Zion Church, 111 Washington Street The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Newburgh is the oldest Black Church in the Mid-Hudson Valley. The Rev. G. George Matthews organized the church in May 1827, at a meeting held in the home of Caesar Saylor on Montgomery Street. A 1846 Village of Newburgh corporation surveyor’s map shows the church in its present location.


4. Associate Reformed Church, 91 Grand Street Established in 1798, this building was brought north through the Village and rebuilt on its present site in 1820. Of a simple early federal style, the church gracefully complements the row of Federal townhouses, Quality Row, built behind it soon afterward. Re-sided with fresh clapboard in the late 20th Century, the building began a new life as a community theater for a time, and now has returned to its function as a house of worship.

5. Brewer Hook and Ladder, 75 Broadway Built in 1862 for the Brewer Fire Company, the Italianate building was designed by John D. Kelly. Former in 1852 as Clinton Hook & Ladder, then named in 1861 after Hiram S. Brewer, its foreman for many years. Last used as a firehouse in 1976.

6. Broadway 132 feet wide. Previously called Western Avenue and 8 Rod Road, it is shown as 8 rods (one rod is 16 feet wide) on a 1713 map by Sir Augustine Graham, Surveyor General of the Province of New York. In 1730, Cadwallader Colden & James Alexander labeled it “Main Street, A Street 2 Chains Wide” (a chain is 66 feet). In 1801 entrepreneur John Devitt and others used the entire width as part of the Newburgh-Cochecton Turnpike, a toll road “thrust into the wilderness” going to Sullivan County where it later met an 1810 turnpike to Buffalo, opening up land for development along the route.


8. Calvary Presbyterian Church, 210 Grand Street Considered to be America’s first Presbyterian Church “designed in the spirit of correct ecclesiology,” Calvary was designed in 1858 by Frederick Clarke Wither. He deliberately selected the stones and slates to reflect the mountains across the Newburgh Bay and assure the church would be appropriately Gothic but not ostentatious. http://www.calvarypresbychurch.com/

9. City Club, 120 Grand Street Built between 1852 and 1857 for Dr. William A. Culbert, the design was a collaborative effort between Andrew Jackson Downing and Calvert Vaux, and published in the 1857 Village and Cottage Architecture as Design #20. Painstakingly restored in 1975, it was then gutted by fire in 1981.

10. City Hall, 83 Broadway Newburgh’s City Hall began as an industrial building around 1882 as the Bazzoni Carriage Works. The City acquired it in 1893, and it was redesign as City Hall, partly by renowned regional architect Frank Estabrook, including the magnificent two-story City Council Chambers on the second floor.

11. Colonial Terraces Colonial Terraces (1918-1919) is a planned community designed by housing and community planning pioneer Henry Wight (1878-1936). It was one of several defense housing projects he worked on for the federal government during World War I, in this case to provide homes for workers employed at Thomas C. Desmond’s busy Newburgh Shipyards. It features attached single-family houses of brick or white shingle, some two-story brick apartment buildings, two stores, two parks, and much charm, now protected as an Architectural Design District. http://www.newburghrevealed.org/photojournal/colonial.htm

12. Courthouse, Newburgh Heritage Center, 123 Grand Street The 1841 Courthouse, designed by Thornton Niven, is almost a twin to one constructed by him the same year in Goshen. Leading Newburgh citizens raised the money to acquire the land, which was and remains a City park. Orange County Courts operated in the building until 1972, when all courts were removed to Goshen, and Newburgh ceased to have a county courthouse for the first time since 1798. In 1998 the building was conveyed to the City, and now houses the Records Management administrative office, the City Historian, and the Newburgh Heritage Center. newburghhistory@usa.com

13. Crawford House, 189 Montgomery Street Built in 1830 by Captain David Crawford, a wealthy shipping magnate, this Greek Revival mansion now is home to the Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands. http://www.newburghhistoricalsociety.com/index.html

14. Dutch Reformed Church, 134 Grand Street A. J. Davis’ 1835 Dutch Reformed Church was designed and begun during his brief association with New England architect Russell Warren. Completed in 1837, the building was inspired by New York City’s French Protestant Church, 1832-34, a major Greek Revival commission designed during Davis’ professional association with architect Ithiel Town. Like the NYC building, the church originally carried a dome, removed due to structural concerns in 1843. The church is dramatically sited to take full advantage of its situation above the Hudson River and today remains among the most significant examples of the Greek Revival style between NYC and the Capital Region, and was named a National Historic Landmark in 2001. For more information visit www.newburghdrc.org.

15. Edison Generating Plant, 59-69 Montgomery Street Built in 1884 under the supervision of Thomas Edison, this is one of the earliest power plants and is still in use by Central Hudson Gas & Electric.

16. The Foundry, 70 John Street By 1884, Whitehill’s iron foundry occupied the southern part of the block of buildings that is now known as The Foundry at Washington Park. Newburgh Ice Machine & Engine Co., Whitehill Engine & Pictel Ice Machine Co., Newburgh Steam Engine Works, and Eastern Casting Corp. all occupied and/or enlarged the complex, which now houses a community of luxury apartments and lofts.

17. Glebe House, 84 Clinton Street Glebe House, or Clinton Street School, was built in 1849 and heralded a new plan for a common district school which preceded by three years New York State’s legislated free education. The Glebe lands were set aside in 1719 in a land patent from Britain’s Queen Anne; land ownership was retained by the Glebe and leases administered by the Glebe Trustees supported the minister and the school.

18. Goldsmith Denniston House, 227 Montgomery Street Built in the early 1800’s, Federal style. Made of brick, the exterior is covered with stucco scored to imitate stone blocks. This is possibly the oldest house on Montgomery Street, and one of the oldest homes in Newburgh. Modified in the 1880’s with the addition of a bay window and marble fireplaces, the house was updated in 2001-04 by its present owners and is now a bed & breakfast. http://www.dennistonbb.com/
19. Hotel Newburgh, 111 Broadway

Behind the facade were originally a plumbing supply store, cigar, brush, and champagne factories. During WWI the building was converted to the Cohen Opera House and Hotel, then by 1937 the Plaza Hotel and Ritz & Cameo Theatres.

Current renovation/utilization plans by Safe Harbors are based on Common Ground in Times Square, including artists' lofts, galleries, efficiency apartments, concerts & plays, offices, and storefronts.

20. Hotel Washington, 84-86 First Street

Dedicated and formally opened in June of 1930, the Hotel Washington became the mainstay of government officials, powerful corporate bigwigs, and the wealthy with 148 elegant rooms. The original name was Hotel Newburgh, but the public was asked for names and of the 1,026 entries, 367 mentioned Washington, and 76 actually offered Hotel Washington, with the original name getting only 14 endorsements. Now Hudson Pointe Apartments for seniors.

21. Hull/Van Duzer Villa, Mount Saint Mary College, 330 Powell Avenue

The Gothic Revival villa mansion “Roazenhof,” influenced by Downing’s designs, was originally rebuilt around 1866 for the Van Duzers. Aquired by the Dominican Sisters in 1913, later renovated by Ann Beha, the “Villa Madonna” as it is now known, houses the administrative offices for Mount St. Mary College.

22. Liberty Street School, One Liberty Street

Liberty School known to many as Public School No. 6, was designed by renowned regional architect Frank Estabrook in 1891. The last class left in June 1980.

23. Library 1878, 100 Grand Street

The Library, now Hudson Valley Christian Church, was designed by architect J. A. Wool, and cost almost $30,000 by the time it opened in February 1878. It held 11,000 volumes and had an “advanced card system.” Its predecessor, the 1815 Newburgh Academy library is thought to be the fourth oldest free public circulating library in the state. The Newburgh Free Library first opened to the public in 1852 with 2001 volumes.

24. Masonic Temple

The Masonic Temple cornerstone was laid July 10, 1914; construction cost $160,000. Freemasonry in Newburgh predates the Revolutionary War. The current Newburgh Lodge No. 309 was chartered in 1853 by N.Y.S.

25. Newburgh Savings Bank, 94 Broadway

Newburgh Savings Bank was chartered in 1852 and officially opened in 1853. This building was built in 1923, and now houses the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum. (845) 569-4997.

26. Newburgh Steam Mills, 302 North Water Street

Regal Bag was built in the 1830s as Newburgh Steam Mills, manufacturing cloth. Later the building housed Coldwell Lawmower Co., and is currently a pocketbook factory. It is listed in Ripley’s Believe It Or Not as the only building that has its main entrance on the 6th floor.

27. Niven House, 201 Montgomery Street

201 Montgomery Street was designed and occupied by Thornton M. Niven, Newburgh’s first native architect and a master stonemason. Constructed in 1839, the house remains virtually unchanged except for the south side’s apse, said to be added by architect Frederick Withers when he occupied the house in the 1860’s. Niven was the architect of the Newburgh and Goshen courthouses, among other significant public buildings.

28. Quality Row, 112-120 First Street

112-120 First Street “Quality Row,” was designed by Thornton Niven and built on land that had been the garden of Rev. John Brown. 112 was built in 1836 for W. W. Wyley, and still has its original Belgian marble mantel pieces with iron fittings that include “heatalator” covers that acted as radiants for the coal fires. 114 was built in 1836 for Rev. Brown, Pastor of St. George’s Church until his death in 1884. The Deyo family bought 116 from Governor Clinton’s brother,occupying it for 125 years. In 1883, Thomas A. Edson was a guest at 116 while establishing the Edison Illuminating Company on Montgomery Street, and wired the house for electricity, making it the first private residence in Newburgh, and possibly upstate New York, to have electricity.

29. St. George’s Church, 105 Grand Street

Consecrated in 1819, St. George’s Episcopal Church is one of Newburgh’s oldest buildings. The cornerstone was laid June 12, 1817.

30. Selah Reeve House, 131 South Street

Built in the late 18th Century by Selah Reeve, a prominent merchant and potter. In the 1820’s, an engraving by British artist W. G. Wallis of this Dutch-type house, the Village of Newburgh and the view of Storm King was used on Staffordshire china, wall prints, and lampshades. One of the three oldest buildings left in Newburgh, the top floor housed the Village’s first Masonic Temple.

31. S. Stroock & Co., 691-707 Broadway

S. Stroock & Co. set up its first mill soon after the end of the Civil War. Some of the present complex was constructed as early as 1885, other parts between 1916-1920. The original shop once displayed figures of animals from which the fine coats & clothes were made, including camels and llamas. Also known as Stroock Plush Company, they manufactured carriage blankets and robes, later automobile blankets and robes for open cars, then woolens and blankets for World War I.

32. Sunflower Cottage, 195 Montgomery Street

Known for the intricate flower carving over its porch, this home was home to Captain David Crawford’s descendants. It was long the home of the Shipp family whose insurance business stood on Smith Street. Local legend tells that the Sunflower Cottage was originally on Grand Street and was slid along Clinton Street one icy day to its present location.

33. Theological Seminary, 70 Dubois Street

The Theological Seminary of the Associate Reformed Church, which served the entire diocese, first opened in New York City in 1805, moving to Newburgh in 1829. Designed by Thornton M. Niven, Newburgh’s first native architect and a master stonemason, the 40 foot foundation was laid in 1837 on the site of the former Henry Walsh farm. Construction was completed in 1839 at a cost of about $25,000. The seminary library initially held 5,000 volumes, many of them rare and valuable. Currently the building is part of the Newburgh Campus of St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital.

34. Tower Clock, 76 Dubois Street

The tower clock in Ebenezer Baptist Church was made by Charles Fasold in 1871, in Albany, New York. There are only four clocks of this type in the world, and this is the only one still in its original location. It was the official city clock, the time standard, in the days before radio and electricity. Watch the minute hand for 60 seconds to see one of the curious things that make it one of the most important clocks in New York State. The church itself was built in 1872 as the Union church, originally designed with 4 small spires atop each tower.

35. Trolley Barn, 244-250 Broadway

Built in 1894 as the trolley barn and power station for Newburgh Electric Railway, this building until 2005 housed Zeger’s Hardware Store. The old trolley system had 15 open cars and two closed “winter cars.” The fare from Newburgh to Orange Lake was 10 cents. A 1925 trolley service diminished steadily as it was displaced by buses.

36. Vaux-Withers Villa, 182 Grand Street

Calvert Vaux and Frederick Withers collaborated on the design of this “suburban house with attic” (their design #10). They were under contract with A. J. Downing at the time and this large house, built in his “picturesque” country villa style, is one of the few in Newburgh built on a large parcel of land. Downing tried to be sure that any house he was associated with would have ample land for him to design gardens and lawns.

37. Warren House, 196 Montgomery Street

This A. J. Downing-style villa is shown as Design #4 in the 1857 Calvert Vaux book Villas & Cottages. Built in 1854 for William E. Warren, this house served as the Hodge Funeral Home in the late 20th Century.
38 Washington's Headquarters, 84 Liberty Street

From April 1782 to August 1783, General George Washington, commander in chief of the Continental Army, made his military headquarters and residence at the Hasbrouck family’s fieldstone farmhouse in Newburgh. In 1850, the property was purchased by the State of New York and became the first publicly operated historic site in the United States. Today, an audio-visual program and museum exhibits of artifacts recall the events during 1782-83, when Washington’s army stood ready for battle until the final days of the Revolution. In the Hasbrouck house, furnishings, personal effects and reproductions recreate the daily lives of the general, his wife, his officers, slaves, and servants during their 16 month stay. http://nysparks.state.ny.us/sites/info.asp?siteID=32

39. Washington Heights

In 1886, Henry T. McCoun purchased the forty acres of the Captain Henry Robinson farm and according to Nutt’s 1891 Newburgh, “entered into an arrangement with Col. Charles H. Weygand for its speedy development on an extended scale.” An 1889 birds-eye lithograph of the proposed development was used in marketing it. Over 2 1/3 miles of streets and 450 lots were laid out, each deed stipulating that no liquor be sold or manufactured. Nutt proclaims that the settlement “is consistent with the general beautiful appearance of the city” and praises McCoun as a man with “rare business sagacity.”

40. Weigand’s Second Tavern, 326 Liberty Street

During the late 1700’s, the original Weigand’s Hotel/Tavern was at Liberty & Broad Streets. Upstairs rooms housed the court of the peace justice and town meetings. During the Revolutionary War, Martin Weigand was an outspoken patriot and promoted to First Lieutenant in the militia. After the war, Weigand moved his tavern to its present location.

41. West Shore/N.Y. Central RR Station, South Water Street

Contracts were let in Spring 1909 for ‘one of the handsomest depots along the West Shore line’, built of Roseton bricks and costing $60,000. The West Shore Railroad began service in 1883, and the last passenger train left Newburgh in 1958.

42. W heelman’s C lub, 49 G rand Street

In 1896, renowned Newburgh architect Frank Estabrook designed this building as a clubhouse for the League of American Wheelmen, riders of those huge, ungeared, highwheeled bicycles known as “ordinaries.” The Wheelmen’s symbol can still be seen in the round stained-glass window next to the front door. The off-center composition and rough, castle-like stonework are in the “Richardsonian Romanesque” style, made popular a decade earlier by the Boston architect H. H. Richardson. Later the building housed the boys high school of St. Patrick’s church next door. Restored in 2001 by the Newburgh Architectural Conservancy, it now houses an adult education program and apartments.