

# The FERRYMAN

DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GALA  
JANUARY 15, 1983: AT ESTHERWOOD

VOLUME III NO. 2

DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 1982

## Historical Society Annual Meeting



PUBLIC PANEL DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW 8pm  
on HISTORIC LANDMARK PRESERVATION In  
DOBBS FERRY. Tues., September 28.

You are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society on Tuesday evening, September 28, at 7:30pm. The business meeting of the Society, during which nominations to the Board of Trustees of the Society will be presented to the membership, will be held in Fellowship Hall of the South Presbyterian Church on Broadway.

Following the meeting, at 8pm, we will convene a public information panel discussion on the subject of local historic preservation, to be led by architectural historian and Urban County representative Karen Morey Kennedy, with remarks by a panel including: Austin O'Brien, Program Officer of the New York State Department of Parks and Recreation's Division of Historic Preservation; Brian LeBeau, Chairman of the Historical Architectural Review Board of Tarrytown; and Grace Pugh, Chairman of the Landmarks Advisory Committee of Mamaroneck.

The panel will explore, with public participation and questions invited, the levels of effective interest in historic preservation at the local, county, state and National Landmark Trust levels.

We hope that all of our members and friends in the community who have already shown enormous individual interest in this topic will join us for an evening of information exchange, practical advice and historic purpose.

On hand as a parenthesis to our program will be the historical society's Storefront History Theatre projector, presenting a continuous, pulse-synched, captioned program of slides spanning Two Hundred Years of Architecture in Dobbs Ferry.



GUIDED ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR  
EXPLORES THE ERA OF THE GREAT ESTATES

"Victorian Variety on Clinton Avenue"

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 2:30 pm

(raindate: October 24)

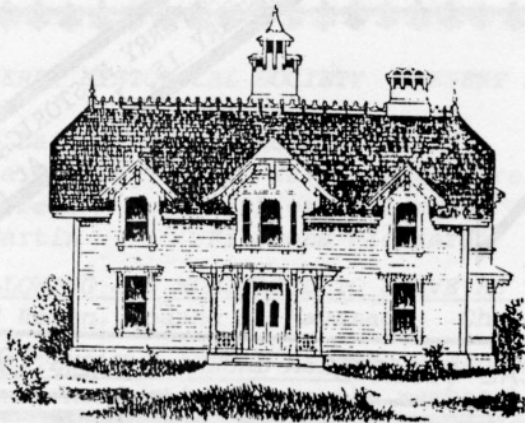


Once again the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society is proud to present a public walking tour of one of Dobbs Ferry's most architecturally interesting streets.

Architectural historian, Karen Morey Kennedy has developed a guided walk which will look at the variety of architectural style and detail from the Victorian period, on and near Clinton Avenue.

The tour group will meet at 2:30pm on Sunday, October 17 (raindate will be the following Sunday, October 24) in front of the Dobbs Ferry Woman's Club at 54 Clinton, where registration will take place and illustrated brochures designed by Robert McGlynn of Ashford Avenue will be available. Cost of the tour is \$5 (\$4 for members). "Victorian Variety on Clinton Avenue" is the first in a 1982-83 series of three architectural walking tours made possible with the support of the New York State Council on the Arts and the Westchester Arts Fund of the Council for the Arts in Westchester. Two additional tours, "Stucco and Stones: The Look of Italy in Dobbs Ferry" and "Outbuildings and Gatehouses" will be available during the year as mapped, self-guided tours, for which individuals may purchase illustrated brochure/guides, singly, or in bulk for groups, through the historical society and local real estate offices.





Villa on the Hudson (proposed design 1867)

## Architectural Walking Tours

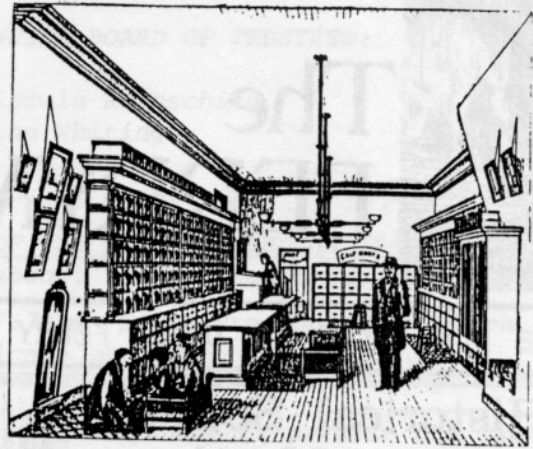
TOURS will explore three centuries of American architectural style extant in this Hudson River village. Walk-Drive-Bike along Dobbs Ferry's historic streets.

"STUCCO AND STONES: THE LOOK OF ITALY" will repeat the very popular 1981 Main and Palisade Streets walking tour so many of you raved about. As a self-guided tour, and/or preceded for groups by a captioned slide show, "STUCCO and STONES" is uniquely Dobbs Ferry in its revelation of how an immigrant population changed the look of the village in the early 20th Century, to reflect in vernacular landscape and architecture, the materials and visual memories of home towns in southern Italy.

"OUTBUILDINGS AND GATEHOUSES". This Spring, the third architectural tour will open to investigate by foot, bike or by car the individual outbuildings (Aqueduct Keeper's House, gatehouses, gazebos, barn structures) which dot our community and deserve special attention. An illustrated guide will outline a recommended course through the village to best highlight these buildings, making this self-guided tour an enjoyable challenge to history and architecture-lovers.

### SPECIAL PHOTO AND SKETCHING TOURS, TOO.

Photographers and artists may be interested in arranging with the Society for special photo and sketching tours of these architectural subjects in Dobbs Ferry. Group arrangements for special-interest tours may be discussed with Society staff. Teachers interested in incorporating walks into their local history curriculum lessons are encouraged to contact the director, or President Tahnee Neil at 693-7766.



## Storefront History Theatre

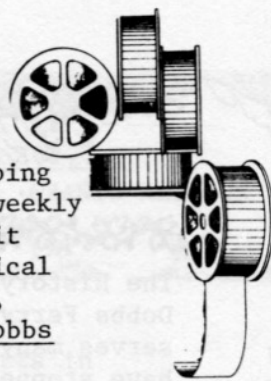
August marked the launching of an innovative public project of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society. "Storefront History Theatre" is presenting continuous daily showings of 5-minute mini-histories on significant local themes in captioned color slides. This unique media program brings local history directly to the "man (woman/child) in the street," with programs shown on a rear-screen projector in storefronts and business offices along the main shopping streets of Dobbs Ferry, changing location weekly or bi-weekly. Sixty to eighty captioned color slides, automatically timed by an endless-loop cassette tape, informs and entertains passersby from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

The first of the series, "200 Years of Architecture in Dobbs Ferry," featuring a chronology of styles represented in the village from Federal times to Mid-Twentieth Century, was developed by Karen Kennedy, Architectural Historian, of Rye, and Cathleen Polgreen, society trustee and Photography Coordinator for the project. It debuted on August 2 at Cary's Pharmacy on Main Street where it ran through August 21, drawing the largest group of on-lookers during the "Moonlight Madness" sale on August 5, which was sponsored by the Dobbs Ferry Chamber of Commerce.

Storefront History Theatre may be seen during the month of September at the following places of business: Ye Village Realty on Cedar Street, Scappy's Harmony Inn on Ashford Avenue, House of Charm on Main Street and Shamrock Liquors, Inc. on Main Street.

Editors this issue: Tema Harnik  
Joanne Kavanagh

THE DOBBS FERRY REGISTER  
NEWSPAPER MICROFILMING PROJECT



### History On Microfilm

Experience the wonders of flipping through the back-lit pages of weekly community history! You can do it here at the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society, where the only extant, bound run of 65 years of the Dobbs Ferry Register continues to be microfilmed for our archives. Thanks to the gracious and generous loan of these newspapers for filming purposes by the family of Ann and George Graham, the Dobbs Ferry project has been demonstrated as a model for other historical organizations.

Two modest microfilm readers are on hand in the history room, where the public is invited to use the microfilm for search and research purposes. Students of local history will be especially interested in this tool for community study.

For the third time, the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society has received a 2-1 matching grant of \$1000 from the New York State Library Shared-Cost Newspaper Microfilming Project. Helping us tremendously in our fund-raising efforts for this important project during 1982 was a major gift from the Inner Circle, an organization of political writers in New York City. Additionally, many individual contributions generously continue to move our microfilming ahead a little further (and of course, more is urgently needed.)

This year Dobbs Ferry Register microfilm has helped to locate information on Dr. Elizabeth Ogden Bradley Bystrom, a turn-of-the-century woman physician of Ogden Park; it was useful to a member of the Tiernan family in tracking down genealogical leads; added to graduate level research on Estherwood and architect J.J. McComb; led to the fascinating story of the 1907 trial of Harry K. Thaw who murdered architect Stanford A. White, and whose Jail Warden was John Hill of Dobbs Ferry; microfilm offered graphic ads which tell the history of merchants and commerce in the village; gave a context of social history to weekly notices of community involvement on the part of a local church congregation-- and more.



The preparation of bound volumes of this illuminating weekly newspaper, which was published from the 1870's to 1970, is a long and painstaking job, requiring great care. The Society is fortunate to have the dedicated team of Janine Gannon, Mike McCoy, and intern Lydia Kavanagh at work on the preparation of newspapers for microfilming.

*The history room of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society will be staffed:*

- Mondays 9-2*
- Tuesdays 9-2*
- Fridays 9-2*

*You can reach us at all other times by phoning our 24 hour answering machine: 693-7766. Don't forget to leave your number on the taped message !*

Almost a year has passed since Tema Harnik joined the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society as our director. A number of new projects have taken shape under her leadership. The Storefront History Theatre, which began as an idea in Virginia Barton's head has been put on the boards by Tema, Karen M. Kennedy, architectural historian, and Cathy Polgreen, photographer.

In her role as director Tema has helped to develop many fine programs, including the public panel on architectural preservation scheduled for our annual meeting, Sept.28, and the guided walking tour "Victorian Variety", taking place Oct.17. In connection with our continuing efforts to microfilm the Dobbs Ferry Register she has achieved a valuable liason with archival experts at the New York Public Library, which should ensure a quality film copy of that historic newspaper for public use. As President of the Lower Hudson Conference, a regional service organization of museums and historical agencies in Westchester, Rockland, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, Tema represents the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society among professional peers.

Working with faithful volunteers on our own archives committee, she has instructed them in sorting, cataloguing and preservation procedures. The Trustees and officers of the Society would like to congratulate Tema on a year of solid achievements. -F. Neill.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO TOUCH THE PAGES  
OF HISTORY ... VOLUNTEER.

Last winter our weekly volunteer Archives Work Group waded carefully through an enormous collection of school district tax records and fascinating daily correspondence dating from the 1880's to the 1960's, thus helping the Society in the sizeable job of preliminary cataloguing of this material.

As a result of their work, researchers have been able to pinpoint genealogical information through the late 19th century tax collector's rolls.

The Society is planning to develop contemporary school programs on early Dobbs Ferry education and teacher-community relations from these archives.

A second Archives Work Group pored over old photographs to identify people and places in the context of Dobbs Ferry's history. Others have engaged in creative research to aid in answering local history information inquiries.

We are indebted to the men and women who have graciously shared 2-3 hours per week with the historical society. We look forward to your continued assistance.

This year, Archives Work Group volunteers will learn valuable preservation skills while aiding in sorting the Society's archival materials.

As a result of a book restoration workshop in August, presented by the Lower Hudson Conference at the F.D.R. Library in Hyde Park, the director will demonstrate mylar encapsulation, pamphlet binding and making book wrappers out of acid-free materials, to protect endangered books and papers. The demonstration will accompany a regular Friday Archives work session, later this fall.

Please call us and say you'll join in the work of the Archives Group. You can find out more by calling Chairperson for Volunteers, Christine Roraback (693-0279) or Tema Harnik at 693-7766.

THE HISTORY SHOP:

... George Washington wears one...

The history room, downstairs in the Dobbs Ferry Library at 153 Main Street serves many purposes. Those of you who have stopped by have noticed the cast of George Washington decked out in his Ferryman tee shirt. His wife, Martha, would have adored the Needlepoint Kit depicting the Tappan Packet crossing the Hudson, in shades of brown and ivory - and you will too!

Many items of historical value (tinted glass leaded window panes, saved from the Dobbs Ferry High School; Profiles of Dobbs Ferry, by Sr. Mary Agnes Parrell; 19th century maps of the village, in reproduction) and items of timeless interest such as the Jon Nielson-designed tee shirts and the needlepoint are offered for sale (at discount to members of the Society) from the history room, or by mail throughout the year. This year, new maps will be available, along with other items.

BUY NOW, WITH AN EYE TOWARDS HOLIDAY GIFTS.

ACID-FREE STORAGE MATERIALS  
ARE EXPENSIVE. THE PRESERVATION  
THEY ENCOURAGE IS VALUABLE. THE  
HISTORY THEY ENCLOSE: PRICELESS.

*The Dobbs Ferry Historical Society needs funds specifically for the purchase of large quantities of inert mylar, Hollinger-style storage boxes, map files, ph-neutral tissue interleaving paper, and acid-free folders to preserve photographic and paper archives and collections. Anyone who could donate to us either these materials or the funds for their purchase, will enable the safety and stabilization of a unique collection of Dobbs Ferry history.*

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO FILOMENA RICCIARDI  
FOR HER CONSCIENTIOUS AND OUTSTANDING  
EFFORTS AS THE SOCIETY'S TREASURER, 1981-82



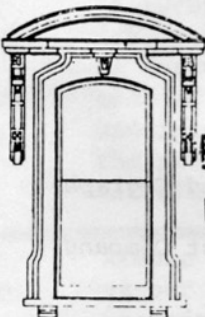
This year the Council for the Arts in Westchester has awarded the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society an increased grant of \$2500, towards design and printing costs involved in our architectural walking tour series, via the Westchester Arts Fund of the Council.

Two Program departments of the New York State Council on the Arts have made grants to the Society for the 1982-83 year: \$1500 from the Architecture, Planning and Design Program towards support of the Walking Tours and \$6000 from the Museum Aid Program towards Institutional Development and for professional consultants to aid in the design of new program formats for our public history projects or exhibits.

WESCOPE and the Corporate Community Jobs Project awarded the Society \$800 for a summer college-student internship. Lydia Kavanagh of Dobbs Ferry, who served as intern at the historical society for 8 weeks, from late June through August, made our extended summer hours possible, and worked in historical administration, membership development, newspaper microfilming preparation, and Storefront History Theatre.

The New York State Library, through its Shared-Cost Newspaper Microfilming Project, made a third grant of \$1000 to the historical society for completion of the preparation and the microfilming of the Dobbs Ferry Register. This grant must be matched 2-1 by funds raised by the historical society.

VARIETY OF COURSES OFFERED ON ARCHITECTURE AND PRESERVATION IN OUR AREA



The Tri-Village Continuing Education Program (478-2572) is offering a special attraction five-session course on "Architecture of the Lower Hudson Region: Its History and Preservation" Wed. and Sat. Oct. 27, 30; Nov. 3, 10, 17; Dec. 1 at the Dobbs Ferry High School Teacher Lounge, 8:00 pm. Course fee: \$35.

At the first three sessions, Robert J. McGlynn will lecture with slides, introducing students to the historical characteristics of regional architecture; Wed. Nov. 17 at 8:00 pm, Tema Harnik, director of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society and President of the Lower Hudson Conference: Historical Agencies and Museums (LHC) will discuss Dobbs Ferry architecture and present Stucco and Stones: The Look of Italy Fee for Nov. 17 lecture, only: \$7.

Wed. Dec. 1 at 8:00pm, Barbara Hammond, Director of the Westchester County Historical Society, and Administrator of LHC, will discuss preservation philosophy, funding, the National Register, and creative ways of approaching historic buildings.

Bronxville Adult School (793-4435) will conduct a 5week seminar on Thursday evenings at 8:00 pm on "The Care and Feeding of Old Houses", beginning Sept. 23, through Oct. 21. Taught by Alan Keiser, known for his work at Lyndhurst, is President of the Westchester Preservation League and technical consultant to the Old House Journal Fee: \$40 plus \$3 registration.

The Scarsdale Adult School (723-2325) is sponsoring two Sunday Architecture Walks in Manhattan. Oct. 24 (2-4pm): Civic Center and South Street Seaport. fee: \$5. Nov. 7 (2-4pm) Greenwich Village East. fee: \$5 Walks will be led by Andrew S. Dolkart, Senior Landmarks Preservation Specialist for the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS SUPPORT  
STOREFRONT HISTORY THEATRE



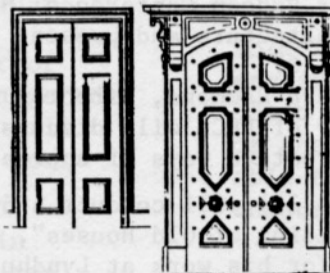
In an effort to become more directly involved with local merchants and business people in the community, the Society has established a new category of membership for those who wish to support such activities as Storefront History Theatre and the series of Architectural Walking Tours scheduled for the fall, in the form of annual Business Memberships of \$25. Members will be the first in the village to have Storefront History Theatre presented in their places of business and acknowledged in programs and publicity.

The past successes of two architectural walking tours in October and June 1981, (publicized in the New York Times and in the Westchester-Rockland Newspapers) drew nearly 300 visitors to Dobbs Ferry from the tri-county and metropolitan areas, convincing the Society that this is an appealing and increasingly popular way of promoting local history and encouraging people to visit our village.

On Thursday, August 12, Vice-President Henry Walter and Joanne Kavanagh attended a meeting of the Dobbs Ferry Chamber of Commerce, at the invitation of Chamber President, Tom Bok, to preview Storefront History Theatre for the members and to ask for their active participation and financial support in working together to put Dobbs Ferry "on the map" as a unique and exciting place to visit, live and do business in Westchester County.

SUMMER 1982: NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS  
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUPPORTERS:

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CABRINI NURSING HOME, INC.  
CARY'S PHARMACY  
EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME  
HOUSE OF CHARM  
THE REMBAR COMPANY  
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IN FULFILLING OUR STATE GRANT OBLIGATIONS.



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BRING US EVEN MORE FINANCIAL HELP.



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- McDonalds Corporation
- Mobil Oil Corporation
- Morgan Guarantee Trust
- Mutual Life Insurance of New York
- The New York Bank for Savings
- The New York Times Company
- New Yorker Magazine
- Newsweek
- Pepsico, Inc.
- Pitney Bowes
- Prudential Life Insurance Company
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Laurel Frees	Cathleen Polgreen	
Edwin Martin	Filomena Ricciardi	and, in addition...

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOMINATED TO SERVE AS TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY THROUGH 1985:

Richard Hazen, Joanne R. Kavanagh, Christine Roraback, Martha Schwartz, Henry Walter.

PLEASE ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING-- September 28, 7:30pm- South Presbyterian Church.

Additional nominations from the membership are welcome preceding the voting.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Residents over 80 -	Honorary
Students & residents over 65 -	\$ 1
Adult -	3
Family -	5
Sustaining -	15
Contributing -	50
Corporate -	25



Make checks payable and mail to:

Dobbs Ferry Historical Society  
153 Main Street  
Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. 10522  
Tel: 914 693-7766

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ANNUAL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 28, 1982  
7:30 pm followed by:

PUBLIC PANEL DISCUSSION: HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
8:00 pm FELLOWSHIP HALL, SOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR: "Victorian Variety on Clinton Avenue"  
SUNDAY, October 17 2:30 pm meet at Dobbs Ferry Woman's Club

STOREFRONT HISTORY THEATRE: continuous slide shows  
in storefront windows on Main, Cedar and Ashford Avenue

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