

Ancram Historic Survey Presented June 15

“The Ancram historic and cultural survey will help us improve the town.

Now we can apply to New York State for designation as a “historic town”. This brings opportunities for income tax benefits and grants to property owners or prospective buyers with historic structures who want to fix them up. The designation does not impose any restrictions.

It’s a good way to keep Ancram the way it is, only better!”

*-Art Bassin
Ancram Supervisor*

Historian Ruth Piwonka presented preliminary findings of her Ancram Historic and Cultural Survey to about 60 people in Town Hall.

She began with the artwork shown below, “The Village Lawyer’s Office” by Flemish Pieter Brueghel the Younger, painted in 1626. Brueghel illustrated 17th century Dutch life, which brought everyone together, lord of the manor as well as the farmers and artisans. The Dutch had an important influence on the history of Ancram.

In 1774, Robert Livingston decided to divide his lands equally between his four sons

Walter, Robert, Henry, and John. When he died in 1790, the manor was divided. Henry and John’s parcels included Gallatin and Ancram. Ancram is shown below in an 1888 map.



Maps of this time show development that remains in the 1958 maps.

The development was due to the railroads crisscrossing the town.

Boston Corner had three RR lines, shown below.



The railroads served both the farmers and the industrialists.

Ancramdale was called “Ancram Lead Mines” because of lead ore discovered there in about 1808.



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2 Ancram's rich architectural heritage spreads throughout the landscape...

"The Ancram survey is a 'reconnaissance' survey," says Ruth Piwonka. "It follows the



guidelines of the National Historic Registry."

Ruth started with about 250 structures identified on the 19th century Ancram maps. Then she travelled all over town, taking pictures and making notes. "The database now has 310 properties, 137 in the hamlets—81 in Ancram, 29 in Ancramdale, and 27 in Boston Corner," says Ruth. The remaining 173 properties are spread throughout our rural landscape.

The 60 properties added include dwellings built between 1888 and 1958, landscape features such as charcoal pits, iron ore beds, lead mine site, stone fencing, stone retaining walls and four cemeteries.

The findings of the survey set the stage to apply to the National Historic Registry for designation as a historic town. Benefits are accessibility to grants and income tax credits, without restrictions, for improvements on historically significant properties. More information will be available as the town's application progresses.



1856 arched stone bridge under Rte 82, Ancram, is the oldest stone bridge in NY State. Piwonka photo.

Many architectural styles dot our landscape. The *Federal* style, is characterized by a shallow entablature under the eave. See this 2-story Ancramdale home below.



Greek Revival buildings have deeper entabla-

ture under the eave. Steeper roofs were typical in northern climes, as seen in the Ancram home below.



This next house in Boston Corner is a variation: a *Greek Revival Farmhouse* with 19th century porch and decorated posts. See below.



Many in the audience recognized the *Octagon* house in Ancramdale:



This *Gothic Revival* home in Ancram, shown at the top of the next column, has a very steep gable roof and ornamentation along the eaves.



Celebrating Ancram's School houses is the theme of the first display in the town's new Historic Display in the Town Hall vestibule. See the next page for more about the opening. The Boston Corner home below is a renovated 19th century schoolhouse.



"Ancram's historic and cultural resources are characterized by how people have used the mountainous landscape" says Ruth.

The landscape and natural resources unite our history and culture, all a wonderful heritage today.

Ancram Historic Farming Community Tour ***Saturday, September 21, 2013—Put it on your Calendar!***



Kentucky Derby Party: Horses Ran and the Neighbors Won!

On May 4, Jane Plasman and Ed Noroian hosted their third Kentucky Derby Party, a fundraiser for Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a local not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization providing direct help and information to people in need in the Ancram area.

"A big thanks to our generous Kentucky Derby hosts and party goers who contributed \$2,200 this year," says Adrienne Citrin, Neighbors president. "Thanks too to everybody who donated to our 2012 annual appeal last fall! Your generosity has helped us raise 20% more than in prior years."

Every extra dollar raised helps to maintain and expand Neighbors grants programs: scholarships for Ancram Kids Camp; food to families in need during the year and at holiday time; a backpack program that gives children nutritious food for weekends during the school year; and an annual school supply drive, which matches needed supplies with local students.

For more information, please call Adrienne Citrin at 518-329-5042.

7th annual Memorial Day Pig Roast & Chicken BBQ.

On Sunday, May 26, 2013, Annie Walwyn-Jones and Murdoch Morrison turned their home next to the Farmer's Wife in Ancramdale over to A. Neighbors Network to raise money for the Ancram Kid's Camp and Animalkind.

"Even though the day was gusty and overcast, attendance was exceptionally strong," said Annie. "\$2,100 was raised for the Kid's Camp Scholarship Fund!"

Live music was provided by the Joint Chiefs, and the BBQ chicken and pork was prepared by Job Yacubian of the Farmer's Wife.

The highlight of the event was the raffle for the fabulous Hammertown Barn Gift Basket.

Annie wants to thank all the volunteers who helped make the day a success, and all the neighbors who came out to participate in the event and support the Kid's Camp.

For more information, contact A.Neighbors.Network@gmail.com

Tenth Anniversary Ancram Town Hall

Sunday, July 21
Noon - 3:00 pm

Community Celebration

and

Grand Opening of the Ancram Historic Display Vestibule

Lunch at noon

Dedication 1:00pm

Grand Opening of Historic Display Area in Town Hall Vestibule

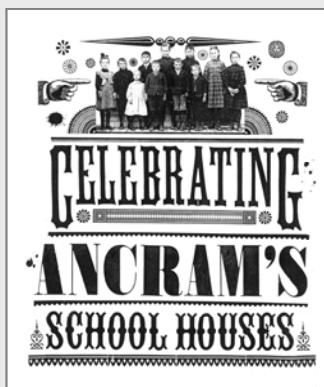
Come see the real thing! This model shows how our redesigned vestibule becomes a permanent historic display area.

The displays will change 2-3 times a year, drawing on the extensive materials in the town's historic archives, catalogued by Clara Van Tassel, Historian, and Robin Massa, Assistant Historian.

The vestibule display area was conceived, designed and implemented by Ancram artist Lynne Perrella.

Three other artists/artisans helped Lynne: Perry Rollins, artist and builder, B. Docktor, photographer, and Kyle Loughheed, electrician.

The first exhibit is on Ancram's One-Room Schoolhouses, all still in existence. Roger Mooney, who lives in one, will talk about them at the dedication. Exhibit text by Jane Shannon.



Talk by Roger Mooney

Dessert after.

Fun for all ages!

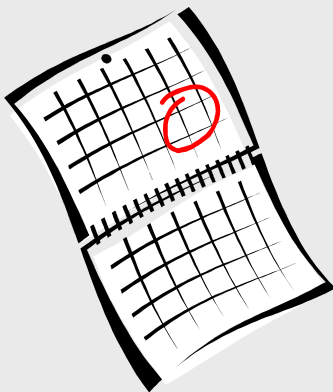
TownNews

Got some news?
Contact Art Bassin
Town Supervisor
329-0921
abassin@aol.com

Getting your news by
email saves the town
money and keeps you
more up-to-date.
Contact Madeleine Israel
to make the change,
329-7483
airjazz@taconic.net

Community Calendar

July, Aug, Sept 2013



Kid's Camp means swimming and a whole lot more! Contact
Camp Director Ruth Thomas Cthomas44@fairpoint.net
Camp runs through August 16. Pool passes available at pool.

- July** Pool is open! Kids' Camp is underway. Join in the fun this summer!
- Jul 13 Sat** **Paint the Ancram Cemetery Fence.** Community volunteers help preserve this 250 year old fence. Join in the fun! 10 am. Bring a friend.
- Jul 17 Wed** **Farmer's Roundtable Discussion** with County Economic Development Officials. Town Hall 3 pm.
- Jul 18 Thu** **Town Board Meeting** at Town Hall, 7 pm. Continuation of Public Hearing for Ridgeline Protection 6:30 pm
- Jul 20 Sat** **St. John's Annual Chicken Barbecue** at the Ancram Landowner's Association pavilion, continuous serve 5:00-6:30. Donation \$12 adult, \$6 under 10. Reserve Jim 789-4769, Ruth 329-2037, Cindy, 329-0038.
- Jul 21 Sun** **10th Anniversary Celebration of Ancram Town Hall, noon-3:00 pm.** Community get-together for Grand opening of the Historic Vestibule Display, first exhibit on Ancram's one-room schoolhouses. Refreshments.
- Aug 3 Sat** **Democratic Party Caucus**, Town Hall 4 pm. Nomination of candidates for Supervisor, two Town Board Members for Nov '13 election.
- Aug 15 Thu** **Town Board Meeting** at Town Hall, 7 pm
- Sep 19 Thu** **Town Board Meeting** at Town Hall, 7 pm. Review 2014 Tentative Town Budget
- Sep 21 Sat** **Ancram Historic Farming Community Tour.** 10:00 to 4:00. Historic farms all over town plus our two historic churches. Activities for all ages. Drive or bike. Order an *AncramFarming* boxed lunch. More info later.