Dutch, Huguenot Influences
The houses built by Dutch colonists during the 17th and early 18th centuries are the groundwork of Dutch architecture in Northern America. Farmhouses, such as Peter Stuyvesant's Brick House (1661) in Crotona, featured distinctive pitched roofs with gable ends, prominent roof beams, and open fireplaces.

At Poughkeepsie James Renwick, Jr., designed the mansard-roofed main City Hall nearby resulted in a new architectural commission, and Richardson or Hunt, his equally famous colleague, designed the Stick Style Reformed Church in Newburgh. He also designed the Stick Style City and the Greek Revival Dutch church on his elaborate Persian-style residence, Olana, in Hudson.

During the first half of the 19th century, some of the country's greatest architects brought new residential styles to the valley and reoriented the older-fashioned estates of their predecessors. As the next generation of prominent architects replaced the older generation and took ownership of the landscape, the focus of development moved further up the valley, from the interior to the banks of the Wallkill Creek and the upper Hudson River.

Historic Homes, Plantation Estates
The Knoll and Locust Grove, Poughkeepsie, were the childhood homes of Franklin Roosevelt. He acquired a royal patent for a vast tract of land in Columbia County, one of whose names he built a Georgian-style country house he named Clermont.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans celebrated their independence through a new style of architecture that attempted to shed the colonial trappings of the past, but they still clung to the neoclassicism inherited from England. Several important houses were destroyed during the war and rebuilt in the Federal style. In its elegant post-war restoration, Martin Van Buren's mansion, Lindenwald, a 36-room mansion in Rhinebeck, was one of the country's greatest estates and to foster the public in Downing's widely acclaimed architectural book. He was an answer to the quest for a native architectural style, particularly because it could be adapted to a range of incomes.

In 1837 Davis introduced the new, romantic style in his landmark book, Rural Residences, which included the Blithewood gatehouse, the first published example of a broad-and-batten cottage in America. Olivebridge, Huguenot Street, New Paltz, was an equalull but more picturesque example of the style. It was through the commission for the Blithewood estate in Amenia-on-the-Hudson that Davis met landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing.

As tastes changed during the 1840s, accomplished architects like Davis and Richard Upjohn were called upon to remodel outdated Federal-style houses into more fashionable Italianate or Tuscan villas. Davis worked with Samuel B. F. Mozee to create Locust Grove in Poughkeepsie, while Upjohn designed Minnewaska, a 36-room mansion in a Georgian style built on land in Columbia County, one of whose names he named Clermont.

The architect Richard Upjohn earned a reputation as the most talented designer of broad-and-batten churches. Upjohn was so busy by the 1850s that he published Upjohn's Rural Architecture in America. The light and vertical wooden churches built in sharp contrast to the heavy stone Gothic structures of England.

Carpenter Gothic, an American Church Style
By mid-century, the romantic ideals of Downing and Davis were common knowledge, and the broad-and-batten church had become the natural style for Gothic rural architecture in America. The light and vertical wooden churches built in sharp contrast to the heavy stone Gothic structures of England.

The architect Richard Upjohn earned a reputation as the most talented designer of broad-and-batten churches. Upjohn was so busy by the 1850s that he published Upjohn's Rural Architecture in America. The light and vertical wooden churches built in sharp contrast to the heavy stone Gothic structures of England.

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Architectural Traditions in the Hudson River Valley

Upper Hudson

New York State Capitol, Albany, nysa.gov—This palatial building is a combination of traditional architectural styles of the day, based on the most fashionable English styles of the day, combined with the influence of ancient Roman, Egyptian, and Renaissance. Three prominent designers—Lorenz Oettli, Henry Hobson Richard, and Isaac Perry—replaced the original architect, Thomas Ustick Walter. Over three decades of construction, the building suffered from financial and political influences and the struggle and architectural collaboration. Richardson, with his assistant Stanford White, designed the restored Senate Chamber. The result was a magnificent interior that Richardson described as representing “simplicity and quietness.” (NHL)

Albany City Hall, 24 Eagle St., Albany, albany.org—Designed in the early 1880s by renowned architect in St. Richmond, St. Peter’s Protestant Episcopal Church, 177 State St., Albany, landmarksonline.org—A Gothic revival church designed by Richard Upjohn in 1853 (NHL)

Schuyler Mansion, 32 Catherine St., albany.schuylerfriends.org—18th-century Federal-style townhouse of Major Gen. Philip Schuyler (NHL)


Mid Hudson


Clmont, One Clermont Ave., Germantown, friendsofclermont.org—18th-century home, with 1883 addition by Michael D. Corbin, of seven successive generations of the Livingston family (NHL)

Montgomery Place, Amawnds-on-Hudson, —A Federal-style mansion dating back to 1825. Montgomery Place was transformed by Alexander Jackson Dawks in the 1840s, and further altered in 1863 in the neoclassical style. The house features an exterior covering of highly detailed stonework. Daws also designed outbuildings in the neo-classical, gothic revival, and “Tuscan” styles. The landscape design was influenced by Andrew Jackson Downing, who in 1854 designed outbuildings as well as plants from his Newburgh nursery and nursery

Wiltenstein, 220 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck, wiltonstein.org—Thomas Sulley commissioned John Warren CHIPMAN to design this house as an Italian villa in the 1730s. Three decades later, of British descent, hired Amos Brown to renovate it into a contemporary Queen Anne estate. The result is a shingle house with an additional exterior veranda, five-story round tower, and elaborately decorated by Joseph Ruff. The house was the home of Margaret “Daisy” Sulley, niece of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.


Vanderbilt Mansion Albany Post Rd S 1/2 mi. south of the village of Hyde Park 1-800-957-7687 youmap.org—This country house was one of the most significant residential projects of McKim, Mead and White’s modern period. Constructed for Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt in 1885-93, this house exhibits the Beaux Arts style in its symmetry, handsome proportions, and exoticism. Most of the original furnishings and designed interior remain intact. (NHL)

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt (Springwood), Albany Post Rd. U.S. 9, south of Hyde Park, 1-800-297-7777 —In 1915 FDR purchased the Schuyler house in which he had been born into a Georgian or Colonial Revival style mansion reviving his presidential aspirations. He also expressed his love for architecture and the local Dutch colonial style through the design of two woods on his estate and through his work on numerous public buildings in Dutchess County (NHL).

Vesuvius College, Main Building, New York State Thruway, north of the village of Hyde Park, 1-877-212-9080 —In 1815 FDR purchased the Schuyler house in which he had been born into a Georgian or Colonial Revival style mansion reviving his presidential aspirations. He also expressed his love for architecture and the local Dutch colonial style through the design of two woods on his estate and through his work on numerous public buildings in Dutchess County (NHL).

Bronck Museum, 100 Museum Rd, New Paltz, bronckmuseum.org—Mountain rock outcropping is the 1867 Lake Mohonk in the Shawangunks.

Historic Hudson Valley Storm King Street, New Paltz, hudsonvalley.org—Arguably the oldest continually inhabited town in America (NHL)

Staatsburg, 43 South Rd. (U.S. 9), Poughkeepsie, iggy.org—Samuel Y. Morse, founder of the National Academy of Design, had achieved a reputation as an artist by the 1840s, but his return of the electromagnet telegraph and Morse code that allowed him to purchase property for a new residence. He chose an old friend, architect Alexander Jackson Daws, to ton his turning an existing Federal-style house into a ““Villa” style with dramatic views of the river. (NHL)

Mohawk Mountain House, 100 Mountain Rd, New Paltz, mohawkmountainhouse.org—Mountain rock outcropping is the 1867 Lake Mohonk in the Shawangunks.

Lower Hudson

Goose Hill House, 114 Goose Hill Rd, Marlboro, greenemeg.com—Oldest Jewish residence in United States, 18th-century trading post

Mount Gulian, 145 Sterling St., Beacon, mountgulian.org—Built by a Dutch merchant in the 1730s, 18th-century noted for its saltbox gables

Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon, 945-431-4868—The Howland Library, designed by Richard Morris Hunt in 1872, is a distinctive example of stile architecture

Madam Berratt Homestead, 50 Van Wyck Ave., Beacon, 845-431-6336—Dutch-style house built in 1700 and 1717

Dutch Reformed Church, 121 Grand St., Newburgh, —Greco-Roman church designed by Alexander Jackson Daws (NHL) Interior closed.

Boosel, 1607 Route 9G, Garrison, bosel.org—One of the most famous landmarks in the Westchester, designed in a Neo-Ionic style by States Morris Destiny, a landmark under the New York State Historic Preservation. Boosel reflects the style and detail of impressive London residences. This house, which originally stood about 15 miles to the south, was raised by preservationists.

United States Military Academy, West Point semi-adu—The nation’s oldest military school with buildings by Richard Morris Hunt, McKee, Mead and White, and Crane, Goodhue and Farnham (NHL)

Bear Mountain Inn & Trailside Museum, Bear Mountain Inn, nyaparks.com—A Bear Mountain State Park, architect Herbert Maier created the nation’s first trailside museum, a low, single-story building with a vernier of natural boulders set in a bedrock, sloping facade. Visitors follow a path up the hill from the boathouse and through the building. The idea of diminishing the barrier between the park and the museum is set a precedent for rustic buildings throughout the National Park Service.

Van Cortlandt Manor, South River Rd, Croton-on-Hudson, hudsonvalley.org, 18th-century stone house and tavern (NHL)

Pocantico, U.S. 9, Sleepy Hollow, Hudsonvalley.org—Neo-classical home of four generations of Rockefeller (NHL)

Licrai, 635 South Broadway, Tarrytown, —Alexander Jackson Daws’ most famous early work in the valley was the Knoll, a Gothic Revival residence. Completed in 1842, the Knoll introduced a new kind of picturesque architecture. In the 1880s Daws expanded the mansion with an asymmetrical balustrade, a grand stairway, and elaborate interiors by Joseph Ruff. Today, the Knoll is considered the most significant extant Gothic Revival house in America (NHL)

Washington Irving’s Sunnyside, West Sunnyside Lane, off U.S. 9, Tarrytown, —In the 1820s, the author of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” created a romantic, picturesque landscape and eclectic combination of many architectural styles.

Sunnyside evokes the charming qualities of Irving’s tales and brings to life his literary legacy (NHL)

Philipse Manor Hall, 20 Harveston Ave (Dock St.), Yonkers, nyaparks.com—This Anglo-Dutch Manor house, constructed in three phases between the 1680s and 1790s, bears the earliest known intact example of an in situ paper-mâché Rococo ceiling from the 1700s. amusing to see the circular staircase designed by in the 1880s. The Manor Hall has been frequented by educational leaders and an inspiration for his Mount Vernon. (NHL)

N.Y. – National Historic Landmark; N.H. – National Historic Site

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