

152

1200 214

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ALBANY

DIVISION OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
ALEXANDER C. FLICK, STATE HISTORIAN
DIRECTOR

REPORT OF UNMARKED HISTORIC SITE OR BUILDING

The Regents program of 1925 for the observance of the 150th anniversary of the American Revolution in New York included the marking of sites, buildings and roads of historic significance in the Colonial, Revolutionary and early State periods. A portion of the appropriation for 1926 was used for that purpose.

To continue this valuable popularization of the State's history, the Governor and Legislature in 1927 were asked to make a special appropriation, and \$75,000 was provided for historic markers and monuments as a permanent part of the Sesquicentennial activities this year.

Your assistance is asked to complete a statewide survey of all unmarked historic sites, buildings, roads, bridges etc., by giving a full description of all the places of historic significance in your locality. It is an unusual opportunity to have your historic buildings and sites adequately marked at state expense. Please use a separate blank for each building, spot, road, bridge etc. Consult the oldest inhabitants and check up in the local records and histories so as to have the information as full and as accurate as possible.

Old Red Brick Tavern

87

To

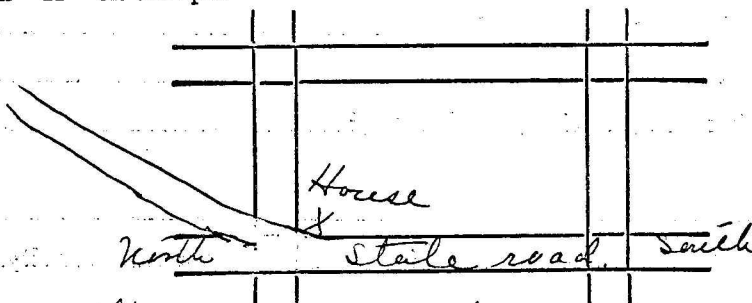
Dr Alexander C. Flick
State Historian
State Education Building
Albany, New York

Dear Sir:

I am reporting an unmarked historic place which should be marked by the State of New York

I Location

- 1 County *Ulster*
- 2 City
- 3 Village *Upper Red Hook*
- 4 Town *Red Hook*
- 5 Designation (a building, site, road, bridge, tree etc.)
- 6 Is it on a state road? *Yes*..... If not, how many feet or yards away?.....
- 7 If not on a state road, is it on or near an improved county road?.....
How many feet or yards from it?.....
- 8 If on neither a state road nor an improved county road, is it on or near a dirt road?.....
How far away from a good county or state highway?.....
- 9 Locate it by naming streets or roads on this sketch (modify as required) and by putting an "X" on the spot



Y7m-Ap27-8000 (7-6187) The new concrete road now under construction will be 300 feet farther West.

II Description

1 A building

- a Home, public building, barn, shop, mill, factory etc.?.....
b By what name or title is it known?.....
c Frame, brick, stone, or combination? Brick, with iron gable roof
d Approximate size of ground plan or building? 50 x 30 ft.
e Number of stories? 2 stories, basement and attic,
f Number of rooms? 12
g Condition (good, fair, bad)? good
h Occupied? Yes If so, by whom? Mr. Harvey Lacey,
i Make rough sketch below or attach photograph



2 Site

- a
b
c
d
e Character of nearest buildings?.....
f Available for picnics or camping site?.....
g Distance to nearest city or village (if in country)?.....

3 Road

- a Kind (state, gravel, dirt etc.)?.....
b How extensively traveled?.....
c Nearest what village or city (give distance)?.....

4 Bridge

- a Stone, wooden, iron or combination?.....
b Is it on a well-traveled road?.....
c Nearest what village or city (give distance)?.....

5 Tree

- a Kind?.....
b Location as to highway or street and, if in country, nearest village or city?.....
.....

III Historic significance

- 1 Exact date or dates proving its age? *Known in 1789 as the Thomas House and so marked on the Colles surveys of U.S. roads of that date*
Christopher Colles' map
- X 2 What incident or event occurred to make it worth marking? (Give brief but comprehensive answer) *Headquarters of General Putnam in 1777 and possibly of Gen Gates also.*
- X 3 The name of what person is associated with it? *General Putnam*
- X 4 What is its historical value in the Community, State or Nation? *Revolutionary landmark*
- 5 Is it mentioned in any public record or documents, local histories, etc.? (Give specific references so far as possible). *History of Dutchess Co. by James H. Smith assisted by Hume H. Cole and Wm. E. Roscoe Page 181*
- 6 If its historical significance rests on local tradition, give the origin of the tradition, state how it was transmitted, indicate how widely it is believed, and mention your own judgment of its trustworthiness.
It is understood by everyone in Upper Red Hook that it was Gen Putnam's Headquarters.
- 7 Give the names and addresses of individuals who can give additional information concerning this historic place.

IV Ownership

- 1 If publicly owned, give local or state official in charge.
- X 2 If privately owned, give name and address of individual or organization in control
Mr. Harvey Lasee
- X 3 If in private hands, would the owner permit the erection of a marker by the State without cost to him? *Yes*
- 4 If privately owned would a marker on the nearest highway suffice? *Yes, on a fork of the lane near the highway*

X V Wordings of marker

- 1 Give below the wording which you think should be put on a permanent marker 36 inches long and 21 inches high, in not more than 25 words (including a date as one word), in one line of title or heading in large capitals and a maximum of six smaller lines of explanation (Use space below).

I see there are many words, but have put the words which are to suit the marker.

(Title) This house is the old Red Brick
(1) Tavern which gave Red Hook its name
(2) Built before Revolutionary days here
(3) at the intersection of the old Albany
(4) Post Road with the road that then was the main
(5) Thoroughfare to New England
(6) General Putnam used it as his headquarters
in 1777

- X 2 Where do you recommend that it be placed? At the foot of the
lawn

- 3 Give the name and address of some local person who might be interested in the contract for the erection of this marker, which would consist merely of the setting of an iron post in a concrete base.

George Donnelly

VI Dedication

- X 1 Give the names and addresses of the persons or organizations sufficiently interested in the erection of this marker by the State to arrange for appropriate dedicatory exercises.

Historical Society of Upper Red Hook
Miss Eva Russell President

- 2 Would the inhabitants of the locality be interested in such exercises? Yes

- 3 Mention any anniversary which would make an appropriate time for dedication.

June 14th

LH of
Tr V

[Name] Miss Frances E. Crouse

[Address] Red Hook, New York,

[Date of making out report] Red

RED HOOK, NEW YORK

July 17th 1927

Division of Archives and History

Alexander C. Flick, State Historian.

Dear Mr. Flick—

I have been very slow in answering your letter in regard to the marking of historic sites. We have been away from ^{home} and really can find but three houses in town of Red Hook which seem to me should be considered at all, and I am not sure about them. so I enclose a paragraph copied from Shuebs Co History that you may decide as to their merits.

People here do not seem to think that there are any places to be marked, and I have had to depend entirely on the information given in the Shuebs Co History.

I shall not fill out the blanks sent since until I have your opinion on these places.

Very truly yours

(Miss) Frances E. Croase

Local Historian.

LH

Red Hook T.V.

Upper Red Hook derives its name from the fact that a noted tavern stood at the cross roads. This tavern* was a place of great resort during the Revolution, and with the exception of the old wooden gambrel-roofed dwelling recently known as the Beecher house near the church, and as the Van Ness house in 1789, was the only building on the post road designated by name at this point a century ago. It is claimed that Washington once had his headquarters in this house, but it could not have been during the war, although it is not improbable that he did stop there when he made one of his tours after the war.

It was, however, at one time ^{undoubtedly} the headquarters of General Gates, for it was in the limits of his military command. It is also probable that Putnam had his headquarters there, because he was in command along the river in 1777, the last time that a British expedition actually menaced this region.

An old resident related that he had seen during the Revolution, and was almost certain it was in 1777, this house thronged with Continental officers. - - - - -

* Known in 1789 as the Thomas House, and so marked on the Colles (Colles) surveys of U.S. roads of that day. - Christopher Colles' map or Survey of roads of the U.S. 1789

over.

This thence, in the red brick house is now
occupied by the John C. Davis.

This paragraph I have copied from
the History of Washoe Co. written by
James H. Smith.

compiled by James H. Cole and William C. Rowe
Feb 1882

The other house is the Martin house in
Lower Red Bluff (Red Bluff as it is now
known.) which was named in its former
time July 4th 1776. Red Bluff is mentioned
with the Revolution before in it.
On July 4th 1776 the me hereabouts anniversary
of the founding was celebrated.
There is also in this village the house where
General John Armstrong died.
General Armstrong was held prisoner at the same
time with the "Hawkeye" soldiers.