

November 26, 1990

Mrs. E. K. Thompson
58 Buckingham Ave.
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601
Dear Mrs. Thompson,

Please excuse my lateness in responding to your letter dated May 25th, 1990 regarding the name "Maizeland". I'm not sure how the name changed over time, but they seem to be used equally in recent times.

I have shown your original letter to the present owners of this property. You may want to correspond with them in the future: Sharon and David Hessney
P.O. Box 477 or 191 St. John's Place
Red Hook, New York 12571 Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217
758-3112

The Village Historian, Rosemary Coons and Town Historian, Winty Aldrich, have toured the inside of Maizeland. They noted that all the changes can be undone and are sensitive to the history of the house.

The Hessney's have been generous in allowing the public to view their house on two different occasions: the 175th Anniversary of the Town of Red Hook and a 1990 house tour fundraiser for the Northern Dutchess Day Care Center.

We truly appreciate your written reminiscences of Red Hook. If you are available for an oral history interview, one of our members can capture all those fond memories on tape. You can contact: Rev. Roger Leonard
RD 1 Box 47
Red Hook, N.Y. 12571
758-1180

If transportation is a problem, I could pick you up and drop you off.

Thank you again for your concern.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Keeling
President 758-8279

P.S.

For your information: the articles in the local papers about the proposed roadway were instrumental in a ballot defeat.

Doughkepsis, N.Y.
May 25, 1970.

Edward Benson Historical Society of R. H.

Dear Lida Feeling,

I read with some concern your story in the Doughkepsis Journal "Road Blam Guild hears Red Hock."

Red Hock was my birthplace and so many times I have seen changes that have been Red Hock, namely repeal on the part of the tax payers to install power at a minimal charge compared to today's prices, when Carl Stäckerborg was Mayor. The State of N.Y. widened 199 from the former cut off into the village, replanted hemlock trees in its stead and changed much of the beauty of the village as I knew it. Then to really take away from the

towns people, a family old land marks
The Red Hook Hotel owned by a '49 man.
It has never seemed the same to me.

Everytime I hear of Maizefield
being changed or developed or
wanting to do something to my
area I am upset. Why on earth
and who changed Maize land to
Maizefield? It hatters me as my
grand father was caretaker & custodian
of Captain Simpson's estate which was
Maize land. My great grand father
owned that parcel of land which
is now the Catholic Rectory & school.
I have so many memories of Red
Hook and Maize land is still
Maize land to me. Betty Eggert
exchanged many letters with me
when she was refurbishing Maize
land. After she passed away I

of course heard no more about
 Maizefield. Every once in awhile
 I hear via the news media that
 someone wants to do something
 which is going to change Maizefield.
 Calling it Maizefield instead of it's
 original name MaizeLand bothers
 me no end. I'm sure Elmore
 Haleigh is a member of your society
 and he could straighten that out.
 It is important to me since my
 family was so involved in it's
 everyday of living there. I am
 eighty years old and before I
 die I would love to have your
 society return it's original name
 MaizeLand.

Thank you

Mrs E. K. Thompson
 58 Buckingham Ave.
 Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601
 (954-6046)



Red Hook 175th Anniversary Committee members pose in front of Maizefield. Sitting are Herbert Elsmore, representing the Red Hook school and Linda Keeling, historical society president. Standing, left to right, are Rosemary Coons, village historian; the Rev. Roger Leonard of St. John's Reformed Church, a local

historian; Joseph Cherney, town councilman; Elmore Fraleigh, whose ancestors began farming in Red Hook in 1798; Robert Bielenberg, artistic director; Leocadia Kitterner, coordinator; and J. Winthrop Aldrich, town historian. (photo by Clare O'Neill Carr)

March 30, 1988 Gazette Advertiser

MAIZEFIELD

M A N T E L S

5-24-89

Dear Linda,

I got overburdened by the documents + stuff so what I did was sell some of them at Col Smith's last fall, gave some to the Hessneys, + sent a few to my brother.

I do have an old book signed by one of the Livingstone + you or Elmendorph are welcome to it.

Glad to see that you're making progress, but aren't Red Hook + Rhinebeck turning into Fishkill? I hate all the commercial stuff and countryside development. But I don't have the spirit to sell all + more yet.

Best wishes,

Kip Eggert

p.s. This is my brother's mantel company - he lives in Port Townsend, WASH.

8 June 89

Dear Linda -

A quick note to tell you what a splendid letter you've written to the Town Bd about the 2 commercial proposals. I wholeheartedly agree with all you have said, and said so lucidly & compellingly. Please be sure to send a copy to Bob Rockefeller, Chairman of the Town's new Zoning Review Committee. Also, what about versions to the Gazette & 3 dailies?

This involvement by the EBHS ^{in this} is as useful & significant as anything yet undertaken.

As you refine and elaborate your arguments in the future you might consider including a reference to the Anderson (?) house, which was one of the most important buildings in the Village and which was needlessly demolished to make way for the A+P parking lot -- and now the A+P may go! We've got to break the cycle. In this connection see the wonderful ^{wonderful} enclosed letter, which will be published shortly - you might also focus on the impact on

(2)

The former St. Margaret's Home (Mrs. Astor's Orphanage) property immediately south of Holy Cow. Built in the 1840's by Mrs. W.B. Astor for mistreated farm-girls, it continued to operate as a private charitable enterprise for 90 years. It has now returned to a comparable institutional use. It is surely eligible for inclusion on the National Register and ought to be nominated by EBHS (I will try to contribute some \$\$). It is largely intact and represents the earliest institutional charity that I know of in northern Dutchess County. Being on the Register, of course, would help arguments for full environmental impacts analysis of road widening, commercial development next door, etc. Specifically, we should target the superb tree which stands next to the highway and the northerly entrance drive. I can't recall the species, but it is unusual and an immense specimen. (Perhaps you could ~~determine~~ ^{identify} the species.) This would be threatened by a road widening. We should start to

agitate about this now - The Astors may have planted it when the building was erected.

Let's discuss further -

Wuntz

P.S. a copy of your letter should also go to Roger ~~Akeley~~ Akeley, County Commissioner of Planning, and to Joyce Ghee.